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Central Eurasia

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Ukraine Signs Nuclear Withdrawal Timetable

Moscow TV reports on the news conference given by Ukrainian Defense Minister Konstantin Morozov. He stated that "right after his return from the United States on 21 April he signed a timetable for continuing the withdrawal of tactical nuclear weapons from Ukrainian territory under international supervision", which includes "the nuclear warheads that have already been removed from the warships of the Black Sea Fleet."

Reporting on the same news conference, ITAR-TASS, reports that in denial to a report that Ukraine sold arms to Yugoslovia, Morozov said, "Ukraine has not sold a single gun, a single armed production technology to anyone to date, although the republic sorely needs funds..."

Kazakhstan Seeks Nuclear Club Membership

Moscow Radio reports on an interview given by Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev in which he stated, "Kazakhstan has the right to become a member of the nuclear club and will not hand over strategic missiles to Russia." He "justified his refusal to hand over the strategic weapons for destruction in the Russian Federation on the lack of funds on both sides..."

Yeltsin Decrees Sanctions Against Libya

In keeping with the UN Security Councils sanctions against Libya, Russian President Yeltsin issued a decree ordering the ban of "any shipments or sales of arms, military equipment, military transport vehicles or equipment used in their servicing or production" to that country, INTERFAX reports. The decree says that "the measures are temporary." The report notes that all "flights to or from Libya will be canceled" and that "Russian air space will be closed to planes making landings in Libya."

Central Asian Meeting Held

A conference was held in Bishkek of the Central Asian heads of states, reports POSTFACTUM. The participants passed a final resolution on 23 April, which stated that they: "Renounce the use of force or threats of using force in their relations;" "Renounce any interference in the internal affairs of the states-members of the conference;" "Rely on the principles of close cooperation, consultations and all-round assistance in resolving ... problems;" "Observe international treaties and pursue a joint policy of regional security, disarmament and control over weapons;" "Observe international agreements on human rights;" and "Recognize main principles of the democratic process and political development."

Defense Minister Pledges Nonnuclear Neutrality

PM2304152192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Interview with Lieutenant General P. Kozlovskiy, Byelarus Defense Minister, by Mikhail Shimanskiy, date not given: "First Interview by First Defense Minister of Byelarus"—first three paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] Minsk—A session of the Byelarus Supreme Soviet has appointed Lieutenant General P. Kozlovskiy, formerly chief of staff of the Byelarusian Military District, as the republic's defense minister.

He is 50 years old and Byelarusian. His father died at the front in 1945. In 1965 Kozlovskiy graduated from the Tashkent Combined Arms Command College. He successfully passed through all the levels of command and in 1991 became chief of the Byelarusian Military District.

Now the first defense minister in the history of Byelarus gives a short interview for IZVESTIYA.

[Shimanskiy] How will you begin work?

[Kozlovskiy] The most important thing is to very attentively, cautiously, and, I would say, carefully reduce the Byelarusian Armed Forces. The task is incredibly complex. Large groupings of troops have been left on the republic's territory. Here are just a few figures. In Byelarus today there is one military men to every 43 civilians. This is a considerably higher ratio than in Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, or Tajikistan. Soon many thousands of today's officers will be civilians—how are they to be employed? How are they to be housed? And given social protection?

[Shimanskiy] What is the essence of Byelarus' military doctrine?

[Kozlovskiy] In the declaration of state sovereignty, Byelarus called itself a neutral and nonnuclear state. That right was earned by its people over many bitter and hard centuries. Surely there is no state in Europe which has experienced so much calamity and misery through war in its history as Byelarus. One quarter of the population died in the conflagration of the last war alone. Our republic does not intend to attack anyone, all tactical nuclear munitions have already been withdrawn from its territory, and the strategic ones are next in line. A neutral Byelarus does not need nuclear weapons.

[Shimanskiy] What quantity of armed forces does Byelarus plan to have?

[Kozlovskiy] Around 90,000 men. They will consist of ground forces, the air force, and air defense forces. Furthermore, a package of draft military laws is now being prepared.

Ukraine Threatens Flights to U.S. Missile Base

LD2204174992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1524 GMT 22 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow, 22 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—The flights of Russian inspectors to a missile factory in the United States, which are linked to the fulfillment of the treaty on medium and long-range missiles, are under threat of disruption.

Il-62M aircraft from a military unit stationed in Nikolayev (southern Ukraine) have been serving these routes. An ITAR-TASS correspondent was informed from reliable sources that as of 1 April, the Ukrainian side has imposed a ban on their operations and has demanded payment based on Aeroflot's commercial route rates.

The amount concerned is several thousand dollars and millions of rubles for one flight to San Francisco. The organizations carrying out the inspections do not have such sums, and there are simply no other aircraft, or, in particular, crews trained and permitted by the American side to fly these routes either in Russia or in other states of the CIS.

In accordance with the medium and long-range missile treaty, both the United States and Russia must fulfill their control obligations over a period of a number of years.

A military aircraft was due to fly [18 April] from Nikolayev to San Francisco, but the flight did not take place. Meanwhile, the American inspectors are continuing their mission.

NATO Urges CIS To Join as Nonnuclear States

PM2304134492 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 5

[Article by Vladimir Mikheyev: "NATO Requires Commonwealth States To Accede to Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty"]

[Text] NATO Headquarters has published a statement which does not bear a formal address but is quite obviously addressed to the leaders of Ukraine, Byelarus, and Kazakhstan in connection with the "lack of progress" on the question of the CIS republics' acceding to the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

The NATO message confirms that the West draws a clear distinction between the status of Russia as the legal successor to the USSR, which signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty in the past, and the three other republics which unexpectedly found themselves members of the "nuclear club" as a result of the breakup of the union state. This does not suit the West. "Neither the presence of nuclear weapons on the territory of those countries nor the fact that activity connected with testing

them was carried out there in the past can serve as grounds to consider them possessors of nuclear weapons in accordance with the articles of the treaty," the statement reads.

It is appropriate to recall that the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, signed in 1968, named as full members of this privileged club only states which had produced or tested a nuclear device prior to 1 January 1967. At that moment they were the United States, the USSR, Britain, France, and China.

The NATO appeal voices the hope that Ukraine, Byelarus, and Kazakhstan will accede to this treaty "as nonnuclear states." As of today more than 140 countries have adopted a voluntary pledge to abide by the spirit and letter of this international agreement of fundamental importance. Clearly alluding to Kiev's publicly voiced concern over the fate of the tactical nuclear weapons being withdrawn to Russia from Ukraine, NATO particularly emphasizes: "It is necessary to ensure the open nature of the process of eliminating these systems, as provided for in the Minsk and Alma-Ata agreements."

NATO sees on the horizon the outline of another potentially debatable issue: the future of the strategic arms which, as distinct from tactical arms (these will all be concentrated in Russia by 1 July this year for subsequent destruction), will remain at the disposal of Kiev, Minsk, and Alma-Ata right through 1994. Hence a lightly veiled form of pressure: Accession to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty is a prior condition for these republics' participation in a special NATO "forum on security questions." A REUTER commentary explains the reasons behind the concealed warning: NATO would not like these republics to keep strategic weapons, which they could later "use as political bargaining counters."

By following this logic it is easier to understand NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner's statement about the growing role of the Atlantic alliance following the demise of the USSR and the Warsaw Pact. Henceforth NATO's most important mission is to prevent "confrontation between rival states in Central and East Europe." The task will be complicated if the latter hold a trump "nuclear card."

At the same time it is possible to understand President L. Kravchuk, who, on the one hand, confirms the policy of achieving his republic's nuclear-free status and, on the other, is concerned at the potential dangers threatening such a major European power as Ukraine. It has no territorial claims on Russia. "But certain Russian leaders constantly make such claims. This is very dangerous. This alarms the people of Ukraine, who fear that Ukraine might be left defenseless in the process of nuclear disarmament," Leonid Kravchuk said at a meeting with a delegation of Australian parliamentarians.

If references to a sea border 1,100-km long justify Ukraine's intention to have its own Black Sea Fleet, the linkage of "defenselessness" with a lack of nuclear weapons will hardly convince NATO and the West as a whole. After the flash "brighter than 1,000 suns" in Hiroshima Western political scientists began to regard nuclear weapons as an instrument of political pressure and later as a trump card in diplomatic bargaining. Extending the "nuclear club" is unacceptable to the West, because even under conditions of a "multipolar world" it undermines the influence of NATO and the EC, limits the possibility of having an effective influence on those same CIS republics, and complicates the geopolitical distribution of forces.

The West cannot afford this. But at the same time neither NATO nor the EC is burning with a desire to open the doors to the Commonwealth countries, thus reminding us once again of their "third-class status." Such a division into castes could objectively strengthen the claims of certain CIS republics to the possession of nuclear weapons.

Bessmertnykh on Nuclear Tasks Facing CIS

LD2304195392 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1810 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] [First announcer] The issue of attitude to the Commonwealth of Independent States gave rise to heated debates at the Congress of the Russian People's Deputies that has just ended in Moscow.

In the long run the majority of deputies approved the creation of the Commonwealth but its further destiny depends much on whether two largest CIS republics, Russia and Ukraine, succeed in reaching agreement on a number of problems including the dispute over the Black Sea Fleet, the future of the Crimea that used to be part of Russia until it was transferred to Ukraine in 1954, and finally the withdrawal of tactical nuclear weapons from Ukraine to Russia for destruction under an international agreement on disarmament in which Russia acts as the Soviet Union's legal successor.

Up to now Ukraine has been in no hurry to remove its tactical nuclear missiles within the fixed terms and in full scale. A Radio Moscow correspondent asked the president of the non-government foreign policy association and former Russian Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh to speak on this subject and here's what he said:

[Second announcer] The present difficult task facing the leaders of the former Soviet nuclear republics is not to succumb to temptations they are exposed to. Otherwise the problem of the Soviet nuclear weapons may become far too dangerous both for the region and the whole Europe. There is one risky point about nuclear weapons, like narcotics they develop addiction which is hard to cure in leaders as well as nations. This should be avoided.

[First announcer] Do you think the newly born nuclear states might wish to be treated as superpowers?

[Second announcer] You are quite right. Some figure the status of a country entering a new community of nations can be strengthened if it has nuclear weapons. This point of view is misleading. Attempts to gain membership in the nuclear club through such actions will arouse concern rather than respect among the world's nuclear powers. At the present time of instability and complicated problems facing the Commonwealth of Independent States there is a real danger that elements of force may emerge in inter-relations between its members. This must not be allowed if we want to preserve the Commonwealth.

Bush, Baker Cited on Boosting Investment

PM2304143792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Apr 92 Morning Edition pp 1, 5

[Sergey Mushkaterov report: "Bush and Baker Urged U.S. Business To Invest in Commonwealth"]

[Text] The U.S. Administration clearly decided to devote last Tuesday [21 April], above all, to U.S. relations with the CIS.

President George Bush held a meeting in the White House with 16 high-ranking representatives of U.S. business, during which he urged U.S. private companies to significantly increase capital investments in the CIS republics. In Chicago's council for international relations Secretary of State James Baker delivered a program speech on problems of Washington's policy toward the former USSR.

The U.S. President declared that he has sanctioned the acceleration of the current talks with all the new CIS states on trade, bilateral investment, and tax treaties. These agreements, according to Bush, are designed to give U.S. companies greater access to CIS markets and will also lay the foundations of future U.S. commercial relations with these states. The President announced that he has instructed the federal corporation for private capital investments abroad and the U.S. Export-Import Bank to hold talks on new agreements governing their activities in the Commonwealth states and to expand their operations in the former USSR.

President G. Bush emphasized: "The U.S. private sector must make use of the present opportunity for business in those countries. An increase in trade means new markets for U.S. goods, great opportunities for U.S. investors of capital, and more jobs for U.S. workers."

Secretary of State Baker also spoke in roughly the same spirit in Chicago. He said, in particular: "By supporting democracy and free markets in Russia and Eurasia we can extend the zone of peace and prosperity and also bring these new states into the democratic community of nations."

In order to achieve these aims, Baker emphasized, the United States is cooperating with all the states formed since the breakup of the USSR. At the same time, however, special significance is attached to Russia as the largest of the new independent states. In Baker's opinion, Russia could become a strategic partner of the United States and help to establish peace and democracy over the vast expanses of Eurasia.

In their speeches both the President and the secretary of state also urged Congress to adopt the bill "On Support for Freedom" proposed by Bush. This document is designed to lift the restrictions on trade with and capital investments in the former USSR dating from the "cold war" times and includes an economic aid package for the CIS.

In the opinion of certain commentators, the speeches by Bush and Baker attest to the activation of the campaign which the administration is now mounting to secure the support of Americans for assisting Russia and the other CIS republics. At the same time the administration is making efforts to involve the private sector increasingly in this. But the position of U.S. business circles with regard to the former USSR boils down to this formula: They want to but are cagey. They understand the need to open up the CIS market so as not to lose out to competitors from West Europe. But they would like to have guarantees that their investments will not be lost in the event of a "sudden" nationalization, they fear the possibility of war breaking out or of violence on political grounds, and they do not know how to get their profits out when the ruble is not convertible.

Creation of Fund To Stabilize Ruble Considered

LD2304171292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1251 GMT 23 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Matyash]

[Text] Washington, April 23 TASS—"The leading industrial powers support the creation of a fund for stabilising the ruble in Russia and in other former Soviet Republics. It will amount to 6 billion U.S. dollars," a high-ranking representative of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), who preferred to remain anonymous, stated on Wednesday [22 April], on the eve of the spring IMF and World Bank sessions, which are to open in the American capital at the level of finance ministers and heads of central banks.

"The Russian-American talks on the IMF programme for Russia," he continued, "are expected to be held within the next few weeks. We hope that by July the drafting of the stabilisation fund will be completed. However, the creation of this fund alone is not sufficient," he said, noting that Russia should urgently normalise the operation of its exchange banks and remove all barriers interfering with international trade.

Atlantic Forum Views Ukrainian Absence

PM2404130592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Apr 92 p 3

[Yu. Sigov report: "NATO Not Pleased With Us"]

[Text] The Hague-Moscow—"The Warsaw Pact no longer exists, nor does the Soviet Union. But it would be a mistake to think that, as a result of this, the West is automatically immune to the severe ailments currently afflicting East Europe." With those words Dutch Foreign Minister H. van den Broek opened the latest annual Atlantic Commission conference in The Hague. The conference ended last week. His speech set the tone for an important discussion on security problems in Europe following the end of the "cold war."

Typically, leading politicians from the NATO countries advocated that the West be "more open" to the East, and called for a "respectful attitude to the East European countries" so as to ensure that they consider themselves an inalienable part of a united Europe and are not cut off from the EC states by an "economic iron curtain." But the West Europeans were most concerned about the question of the extent to which the current instability in the former USSR could threaten the security of the West European states. The West and East European participants in the conference had different views of what would constitute salvation from this alleged threat.

For instance, G. von Moltke, aide to the NATO secretary general for political affairs, called on the United States to maintain its military presence in Europe as an element guaranteeing security and stability on the continent—despite the Russian troop withdrawal from Germany. In turn, representatives of the CSFR, Poland, and Hungary advocated "noninterference by NATO in internal conflicts between the CIS republics" and also expressed the desire to have "nothing to do with" and to "distance" themselves as far as possible from the Central Asian republics of the former USSR, fearing their "unpredictability and unreliability." There was another appeal to the NATO countries to guarantee the security of the former European socialist countries in the event of an "uncontrolled development of events" in Russia and the other CIS republics.

While supporting the reform process in Russia in principle, the West is increasingly vacillating about providing real aid. As U.S. General Galvin, supreme allied commander, NATO Forces, Europe, put it, it is still unclear what role Russia will adopt vis-a-vis NATO in the immediate period—that of partner and ally (if the reforms continue) or once again that of adversary (if the democratic transformations are overturned). He stressed that Russia should not be given the hope of an early entry to NATO and the EC.

Of course, the conference participants wanted to hear from representatives of the former USSR republics—above all, Russia and Ukraine—and learn their views of the problem of dividing up the Black Sea Fleet, and cutting and destroying nuclear arms. But only the Russian delegation was able to make a statement on these questions of concern to the West. To the disappointment of the conference organizers, the Ukrainian representatives did not come to The Hague (speeches had been expected from Defense Minister K. Morozov or from G. Zhivitsa, chief of the Ukrainian General staff).

On the whole, it became clear from the speeches by representatives of the NATO and former Warsaw Pact states that our problems and economic and political difficulties are undoubtedly of concern to them. But something else was also obvious to me, as an observer who attended the conference sessions—neither the former USSR republics nor Russia as the successor to the USSR are yet seen as influential and strong partners. The assessments made by Western politicians in The Hague about the further development of relations with the CIS states were rather pessimistic: There were calls for caution and restraint in developing wide-ranging cooperation with Russia—particularly in the political and military spheres.

This kind of Western attitude to the CIS is generally understandable. Until all of us individually or together within the Commonwealth have put our own house in order, and until we reach agreement about solving our domestic problems, we will be treated exclusively as a "former great power" rapidly losing its international prestige and the respect of the world community.

Commonwealth

Further on Central Asian Meeting in Bishkek

Final Resolution Issued

LD2304164792 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1627 GMT 23 Apr 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Bishkek—Members of the Bishkek conference confirmed their support for a stronger CIS. The Bishkek conference of the heads of states of Central Asia and Kazakhstan, which finished its work on April 23, passed a final resolution containing the following statement: The conference members...respecting the right of each state to independent development, recognizing and respecting the territorial integrity of the states and the inviolability of the present borders between them, undertake to:

1. Renounce the use of force or threats of using force in their relations.

2. Renounce any interference in the internal affairs of the states-members of the conference.

3. Rely on the principles of close cooperation, consultations and all-round assistance in resolving economic, social, cultural and Political problems.

4. Observe international treaties and pursue a joint policy of regional security, disarmament and control over weapons, participate in the drafting and implementation of programs aimed at cutting weapons and armed forces on their territories.

5. Observe international agreements on human rights and guarantee main civil rights to their population, including the rights of ethnic minorities.

6. Recognize main principles of the democratic process and political development, to call on all the political parties and public movements in their respective states to respect constitutional norms and the lawfully elected power bodies.

7. The members of the conference voice their support for the development of equal and mutually beneficial economic, political and humanitarian cooperation with the neighbouring Asian states, all the more so that the peoples of the member-republics and those Asian states enjoy deep-rooted traditional links going back to ancient times.

8. The members of the conference believe that the current events in Afghanistan are an internal affair of that sovereign state and call on all the interested parties for a dialogue, supporting the UN initiative on a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

9. The heads of the states—signatures to the present address emphasize the need for regular summits and intend to coordinate their activity in the areas of mutual interest in the framework of the CIS as well as at the regional level in the interest of their peoples and the Commonwealth as a whole.

At the press meeting on the conference's results it emerged that a number of documents drafted by teams of experts failed to be signed by the Turkmen delegation.

We decided not to sign some documents since our country is somewhat special, so we believe that those documents should be better adjusted to the starting level of each state, said President Saparmurat Niyazov of Turkmenistan.

We did not sign the documents on coordinating efforts for the transition to a market economy, those on price-setting and on setting up an investment fund and bank. As for the rest of the documents covering transportation and social security—we signed them.

The president of Kyrgyzstan, Askar Akayev, said that the president of Tajikistan, Rakhman Nabiyev, told him on the phone on April 23 that he would put his signature on all the documents signed in Bishkek. Akayev also said that the members of the conference were motivated by the desire to work out a civilized regional political course and to contribute to the development of Central Asian-Kazakh unity.

Speaking about the future of the CIS, President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan said the following: I have recently lost much of my confidence in the future of the CIS...but our current position is that of supporting the CIS. According to Nursultan Nazarbayev, a meeting due on May 15 in Tashkent should be considered a culmination of the CIS development. Nazarbayev mentioned the problem of the Aral Sea, the construction of the Trans-Asian Railway and the joint construction of a gas and oil pipeline among those presenting a common interest to all the states of Central Asia and Kazakhstan. When asked about the Joint Armed Forces of the CIS, Nazarbayev said: We do not go back on our signed agreements about the formation of the Joint Armed Forces under single command. However, since Russia has started to draft a military doctrine, we should try the following approach: to create Armed Forces in other independent states with a view of signing a mutual defence treaty. Nazarbayev proposed a common defence agreement of all the republics in Central Asia and Kazakhstan to be later included in a defence union with Russia. That is a possible way of attending to mutual interests, said Nazarbayev. According to President Islam Karimov of Uzbekistan, each independent sovereign state should have its own Army. Karimov also said that the Army should comply with the potential of each state and, first of all, its budget. We do not intend to create an isolated Army...we do not intend to create an Army which would contribute to the political tension in the republic or be independent of the CIS Joint Armed Forces. According to Karimov, it is necessary to structure the Joint Armed Forces on the NATO pattern: Each

state has its own Army, but at the same time, all the efforts, all the tactical and strategic expertise are joined under a single command...We are convinced that we can not do without a mutual security treaty, Karimov said. He also believe that such a treaty should be signed by all the states—members of the CIS and first of all—by Russia. According to Karimov, such a treaty should confirm the commitment of all the signatories

To observe all the principles of security of the Central Asian States and Kazakhstan. President of Turkmenistan, Saparmurat Niyazov, said that he welcomed the idea of national armies. We want the strategic forces to subordinate to a joint CIS command. However, we must be realistic: The CIS is actually non-existent. And I have no idea, for example, who has command over the CIS commanders today, said Niyazov. Niyazov also said that a summit is planned for May this year of the presidents of Turkey, Iran, Kazakhstan and other Central Asian States to consider the prospects for economic cooperation.

Presidents Hold News Conference

OW2304173992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1710 GMT 23 Apr 92

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] (At a press conference held Thursday [23 April] and in conversations with Interfax correspondents Bermet Malikova and Nikolay Golovin)

Askar Akayev (Kyrgyzstan): Mr. Akayev said that the goal of the meeting was to strengthen the CIS, not to weaken it. He noted that countries in the region were attempting to ensure unrestricted transfer of goods, labor and services and to set up an area with unified customs, currency, and policies while taking into account national systems and their peculiarities. He expressed interest in establishing a united market infrastructure in the region.

Nursultan Nazarbayev (Kazakhstan): Mr. Nazarbayev announced that he had always supported the preservation of a "common economic area and a single currency while emerging from this crisis period." He added that in these areas the republics were acting in an uncoordinated fashion. Mr. Nazarbayev noted that the republic supports a unified armed forces for the CIS. But taking into account the situation where republics, including Russia, are developing military doctrines and are preparing to form their own armed forces, it is essential to consider the necessity of holding talks with CIS countries to discuss the problems of creating national security forces. These problems should be solved in a "civilized way." Speaking about the possibility of introducing a common regional or national currency, he said that the issue was not of immediate concern. He noted that serious problems such as stabilization of the ruble, the creation of national armies, and the issue of national currencies should be resolved through civilized negotiations. He stressed that Central Asian republics and Kazakhstan were a part of the culture and historical traditions of Asian countries, and that it was therefore natural that participants in the meeting were developing contacts with neighboring countries, including India, Pakistan, and Arabic countries. Answering a question from journalists concerning when the Presidents of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan will follow the example of the Presidents of Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan by making a "hajj" (pilgrimage), Mr. Nazarbayev said he was "proud of the fact that Islam Karimov and Saparmurad Niyazov have completed all of the rituals connected with the pilgrimage. Out of five Presidents in the region, two hajjs are enough for now." '

Saparmurad Niyazov (Turkmenistan): The states in the region do not intend to work out general measures against third countries, but jointly they do want to coordinate a political course of action based on the common cultural, national, and economic traditions of their peoples. He noted that the previously proposed agreements on establishing coordinated economic restructuring policies and on pricing and investment funds were tabled because the region's republics were not starting from the same level of development and capabilities for the transition to a market economy. These documents will be prepared in their final form during additional consultations when the interests of each country will be represented. "Turkmenistan has to sort its own economy out from the very beginning."

Mr. Niyazov reported that on Saturday, April 25, 52 armies under the command of the republic and the CIS commander in chief will be formed.

He announced plans to expand cooperation with neighboring countries without the interference of ideology.

He proposed an initiative to organize a meeting of leaders of Central Asian states and Kazakhstan, saying that it would be worthwhile to invite the leaders of Iran and Turkey. The meeting could be held in May of this year. Participants may discuss the possibility of establishing a unified transportation system for the region, as well as problems related to the development of the oil and gas industries.

Islam Karimov (Uzbekistan): The republics of the region can only enter the world market jointly, using the favorable climate and natural environment in the region and supporting one another.

"The policy of tsarist Russia, having conquered the territory of Central Asia, was aimed at preserving the region as an appendage for raw materials." Mr. Karimov believes that this policy toward the Central Asian republics and Kazakhstan did not change once the Soviets came to power.

He noted that every independent state should have an army to guarantee the country's security. He thinks that a NATO-type structure could be established, allowing individual countries to have their own armies, the activities of which would be coordinated by a unified leadership based on a single conception of military strategy.

Mr. Karimov is convinced that every republic should conduct its own pricing policy, taking into account "demographic, cultural, and other factors." The relatively low prices in Uzbekistan, as compared with its neighboring republics, are a result of such factors. Increasing the price of bread to levels in other republics "could cause the situation to explode" in Uzbekistan.

Nazarbayev, Karimov, Niyazov Comment

OW2304152692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1430 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Excerpt] At the final press conference in Bishkek the Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev stated that the participants of the summit support the idea of the CIS joint armed forces. Along the other most important issues, principles of mutual security were discussed at the summit of the state leaders of the Middle Asia states and Kazakhstan in the Kyrgyzstan capital.

Nazarbayev continues, that in recent situation of developing military doctrines by the republics, namely Russia, and preparing to formate their own armed forces, a question arises on the necessity of holding negotiations between the CIS nations on creation of national forces and solving issues on armed forces on a civilized basis.

The Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov spoke on the possibility of creating a structure identical to NATO, when all the countries have their own national armies whose activity is coordinated with the joint leadership and who are subordinate to a single military-strategic concept. The Turkmenian leader Saparmurad Niyazov reported that Saturday (April 25) the 52nd Army will be created, subordinate to the Republican leadership and the CIS Commander-in- Chief.

The leaders of the Middle Asia states and Kazakhstan think that their states can enter the world market only together. They intend to provide for free shipping of goods, labour force, services, to create a united customs, exchange and political space, taking into consideration national systems and peculiarities and the single market infrastructure.

The Turkmenian President Saparmurad Niyazov reported that signing of an agreement on coordinated policy in the sphere of structural rearrangement of economics, in price formation and on investment fund was postponed "due to the absence of equal starting conditions for the republics entering market". According to Niyazov, these documents will be developed during the next consultations considering interests of each party. Nazarbayev and Niyazov underlined the need for cooperation with neighbour states without intrusion of ideology. Niyazov proposed to organize a summit (possibly May) of the state leaders of the Middle Asia states and Kazakhstan with invitation of the leaders of Iran and Turkey. An issue on creation of a united transportation system of the region and on development of oil and gas complex may be discussed there. Nursultan Nazarbayev reminded that the Middle Asia republics and Kazakhstan belong to the culture and historic traditions of Asian countries. Participants of the summit stood for development of contacts with the neighbouring countries including India, Pakistan, and Arab countries. [passage omitted]

Akayev, Nazarbayev Cited

LD2304155292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1404 GMT 23 Apr 92

[By KYRGYZTAG-TASS special correspondents Albert Bogdanov, Sergey Podapolskiy, and Vasiliy Titov]

[Text] Bishkek, 23 Apr—Joint efforts by Central Asian states and Kazakhstan are required for "creating a unified market infrastructure in the region", which envisages in the future "free movement of goods, a migration of work force, the formation of a single customs, currency, and economic and political space". This was stated by Askar Akayev, Kyrgyz president, at a news conference devoted to the results of the meeting of heads of the above states which ended in Bishkek today.

Speaking about the possibility of creating an independent commonwealth of states in the region, Nursultan Nazarbayev, Kazakh president, noticed that "he and his colleagues in the meeting came out against unification on a confessional or national basis" and that is precisely why they supported the CIS. "We adhere to these positions for the time being but events are developing and life can dictate different moves", he said.

Evaluating prospects for military cooperation within the framework of the CIS, Nursultan Nazarbayev noted that the region's states do not renounce the documents that have been signed on setting up unified Commonwealth Armed Forces with unified command. Russia's latest actions, however, related to developing a military doctrine and practically orientated toward creating armed forces of its own compel one, according to the Kazakh president, to raise the issue of creating the armies of other independent states, too, and then of concluding a defense pact. He described such a path as "the most justified and civilized".

Askar Akayev told journalists that the issue of using a mechanism of concluding bilateral agreements between the region's countries and other CIS states was discussed at the conference. "We agreed to go for signing bilateral agreements but not to the detriment of our accords", the Kyrgyz president said.

Nazarbayev Not 'Sure' About CIS

LD2304125892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1143 GMT 23 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Sergey Podyampolski and Vasiliy Titov]

[Text] Bishkek April 23 TASS—Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev is no longer sure about future stability of the Commonwealth. As president of Kazakhstan "I have always been doing everything to promote good-neighbourly relations in the Commonwealth; however my confidence in stability of the Commonwealth has decreased of late", he told a press conference here on Thursday [23 April] after the end of a summit meeting of former Soviet Central Asian Republics and Kazakhstan.

Nazarbayev blamed Ukraine and Russia for the loss of stability, which was triggered by "statements from Kiev after the latest summit in Kiev", and also by the latest Congress of Russian People's Deputies.

The Kazakh president is dissatisfied with the process of forming interaction mechanisms in the Commonwealth. Central Asian republics and Kazakhstan have been staunch supporters of integration in the Commonwealth since the moment of its creation, he added.

Taking into consideration the latest developments in the Commonwealth, Nazarbayev believes the next summit in Tashkent on May 15 will be crucial for it.

Roundup of Meeting

LD2304172992 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1440 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Correspondent Aleksandr Mirtov reports from Bishkek]

[Text] Good evening. I would like to tell you how the conference of heads of the Central Asian states and Kazakhstan ended today.

Although Russia's Vesti program, in its evening bulletin yesterday, told its viewers that the conference of the heads of Central Asian states and Kazakhstan here in Bishkek was being postponed, nonetheless it did in effect begin yesterday with a confidential conversation between Presidents Nazarbayev, Akayev, Niyazov, and Karimov and continued until late in the evening. President Nabiyev of Tajikistan did not come to Bishkek because of illness. This was stated at today's news conference by Askar Akayev. But, nonetheless, the Tajik side did take part in the conference; it was represented by Ghafarov, first deputy prime minister of Tajikistan.

A large package of documents was prepared for the conference. They are connected, in the first instance, with putting economic relations in order. They relate to the creation of interstate investment institutions, banking, and price policy and mechanisms for reciprocal payments under interstate trade treaties. However, they did not meet with support on the part of the Turkmen delegation. But this was not for reasons of principle but because the documents had not been well enough prepared. The other participants agreed with this and, in the end, a protocol was signed instructing the interregional consultative council to draw up draft documents on these questions within one month.

But, of the other documents adopted at the conference, I must point out the agreement on the principles of cooperation and conditions for mutual relations in transportation. It is no secret that the Central Asian republics are republics where road transportation is well developed. At times this is the only means of transportation. And this document specifies, in particular, that means of transportation carrying passengers and freight in transit through the states of the region are freed from taxes and state duties for the upkeep of the roads and other transport facilities.

Another important agreement has been signed. It is connected with the bases of cooperation in legal matters between the republics of Central Asia and Kazakhstan. This document provides for joint, coordinated actions between law-enforcement bodies first of all in the struggle against organized crime, terrorism, drug dealing, and other problems.

In the joint statement that was adopted by the participants of the conference, the sides noted the need for further development of cooperation in all spheres of activity and for giving each other all-around help. This aspect is written into the document.

As was unanimously noted by the participants in the conference at the final news conference which was held in Bishkek today, the present meeting was a routine step by the states of the Central Asian region and Kazakhstan to strengthen good-neighborliness and trust and economic cooperation but was not at all an attempt to play the Asian card as a counter to the other states of the CIS.

At the news conference the presidents also noted that all the problems of the region would be tackled in ways which would not be to the detriment of agreements and bilateral treaties with other states of the Commonwealth.

Moreover, they stated that the current conference in Bishkek was not at all connected with the situation in Afghanistan. Noninterference in the internal affairs of neighboring, sovereign Afghanistan just as in other neighboring countries remains a basic principle in the foreign policy of the Central Asian states and Kazakhstan.

Moreover, I would like to note another fact. The representative of Tajikistan, Deputy Prime Minister Ghafarov, stated that the events in Dushanbe also had nothing to do with the situation in Afghanistan but were an internal problem of the Tajik people who will solve it themselves.

Well, naturally there was discussion of other aspects, too. But these, in brief, were the results of the Bishkek meeting of heads of Central Asian states and Kazakhstan.

Results Detailed

OW2304180092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1710 GMT 23 Apr 92

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Excerpt] A statement signed by the presidents of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan is the main document of the Bishkek summit.

IF [INTERFAX] note: Tajik leader Rakhman Nabiyev told Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev in a telephone conversation on the eve of the summit that he was willing to sign the document. But his illness prevented him from attending the meeting.

The statement is based on the draft memorandum the main points of which were given in yesterday's issue of PB [Presidential Bulletin]. In it the signatories express the willingness of their states to keep to the terms of agreements on mutual consultations and exchanges of opinions on economic, cultural, and political problems reached in Alma-Ata, Tashkent, and Ashkhabad.

The summit participants confirm their interest in the strengthening of the Commonwealth of Independent States and state their recognition of each other's borders and territorial integrity. They stress their awareness of their responsibility for peace and political stability in the region as a basis for its future economic development and cultural regeneration, and declare their nonacceptance of the use or threat of force against each other or interference in each other's internal affairs.

The four states stress their resolve to keep to the terms of the international treaties based on the decision on legal succession to the USSR and to coordinate their measures to strengthen security in the region, achieve disarmament, and ensure proper arms control; they express their intention to work out and implement programs for the reduction of armaments and armed forces on their territory.

They emphasize their respect for international human rights agreements, including those on the rights of national minorities. They recognize democracy as the foundation for their political systems and call upon all their political parties and public movements to respect law and order and legitimate power bodies.

They express interest in equal and mutually beneficial economic, political, and humanitarian cooperation with neighboring non-CIS countries.

They also state their intention to make their region a single information area in order to provide for accurate and unbiased information about events in the region.

They qualify the current events in Afghanistan as an internal matter of that sovereign state. They call upon all the parties involved to start a dialogue and express support for UN proposals for a peaceful settlement in that country.

An agreement was also signed on basic principles for legal cooperation among the Asian republics. (No amendments were made to the draft of the main points of which were set out in yesterday's issue of PB.)

The prime ministers signed an agreement on cooperation in transportation, in which their states pledge to keep to the terms of the current regulations for international transportation established by agreements signed by the USSR with other countries. A provision is also made for unrestricted direct contacts for transport companies and for the setting up of joint transport ventures.

In addition to this, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan joined a Kazakh-Russian agreement on coordination in railway transportation signed in Uralsk on March 23, 1992.

As for the plan to sign a large set of concrete agreements for Central Asia and Kazakhstan joining together into a single economic area, it was decided to make amendments to the drafts for them taking account of the specific features of each republic. [passage omitted]

The four countries simply confined themselves to signing a governmental protocol on their intention to coordinate their measures to restructure their economies, set up an interstate investment fund and investment bank, and coordinate their price policies.

Space Agency Heads Draw Up Cooperation Plans

LD2304174392 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1700 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] On 20-22 April there was a meeting in Moscow of the heads of the national space agencies and experts of Azerbaijan, Byelarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Ukraine, and also representatives of the strategic forces. A package of documents was drawn up regulating the activity and the procedure for using the space infrastructure in the interests of the countries of the Commonwealth which will be put forward for examination and confirmation at the next meeting of the heads of governments of the CIS.

Military

Shaposhnikov on Ukraine's Right to Fleet

LD2304194692 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Interview with Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS Armed Forces, by an unidentified correspondent; place and date not given; from the "Novosti" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] What will be the fate of the Black Sea Fleet? What are the prospects for the development of events? After all, Ukraine and Russia are now in a political clinch over this issue.

[Shaposhnikov] Well, there is no clinch as such, since it was removed after the cancellation of the two decrees by President Kravchuk and President Yeltsin concerning the Black Sea Fleet, which, as you know, were issued at the beginning of the month. There is agreement for a moratorium on these decrees and agreement that talks will begin on 28-29 April in the city of Odessa. Therefore I think that we should solve these problems without entering the clinch that you mentioned, since clinches, confrontation, and so on are all negative things and they could later prove to have very negative consequences. I think we must find a formula for solving the problem of the Black Sea Fleet.

[Correspondent] But, as you see it, will it be divided up?

[Shaposhnikov] Yes, it will of course be divided up. My assessment is that 10-20 percent of it should go to Ukraine and about 80 percent to the CIS Armed Forces.

[Correspondent] Is Georgia, with its maritime border on the Black Sea, laying claim to part of the Fleet?

[Shaposhnikov] Yes, it is, but we have not yet begun negotiating with them. The issue is not so acute, but I think it will come up and we will resolve it.

'Antisubmarine Boat' Detects Foreign Submarine

LD2204043192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0410 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Moscow, 22 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—On the day of the 60th anniversary of the Pacific Fleet—21 April—planned exercises began during which a small antisubmarine boat discovered a foreign submarine in the exercise area, the Army newspaper KRASNAYA ZVEZDA reports today. The antisubmarine boat, the report says, pursued the "unidentified underwater object" for more than three hours. According to an evaluation by Rear Admiral L. Golovko, the fleet commander for military training, the present exercises are the most important for military training.

Regiment To Be Withdrawn From South Ossetia

LD2404113392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1048 GMT 24 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow April 24 TASS—A helicopter regiment of the CIS Armed Forces stationed in Tskhinvali, the capital of South Ossetia, will soon be withdrawn from the city and disbanded.

The number of attacks on military units in South Ossetia by Ossetian and Georgian militants has grown considerably over the past few months. Supporters of ousted Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia continue shelling the helicopter and engineer regiments in the city.

Ossetian guerrillas killed a soldier who was guarding a military depot on Monday and attacked a bus with soldiers on Tuesday.

It is still unclear when a Russian Interior Ministry battalion will be pulled out of the region. The local administration did not rule out the possibility of attacks on military units to seize weapons and hardware.

"We do not have a choice. If the military leave, we will be deprived of the last containing factor and will have to face a threat of local war," Alan Chochiyev, deputy chairman of the South Ossetian parliament, said.

Rear Services Meeting Views Social Protection

PM2304142492 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Apr 92 p 2

[Report by unnamed correspondent: "Facets of Social Protection"]

[Text] How is the level of social protection to be raised for servicemen under market conditions, and what are the role and place of officers' assemblies in resolving the tasks facing Rear Services units and establishments under the present conditions? These questions were the leitmotiv of the report by Colonel General I. Fuzhenko, deputy commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces and chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces Rear Services, and of the speeches by the participants in a conference—representatives of the officers' assemblies of the staff, central directorates, and centrally subordinate units and establishments of the CIS Joint Armed Forces Rear Services.

Media

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 24 Apr

LD2404050792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0432 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Moscow April 24 TASS—Today's newspapers continue to comment on the results of the Sixth Congress of Russian People's Deputies.

"The Congress turned to be incapacitated as a form of legislative power," the newspaper TRUD said.

The military daily KRASNAYA ZVEZDA warns that the government's decision to raise prices of petrol may start an uncontrolled increase in prices of fuel and energy, aggravating the economic situation in the Republic.

The newspaper said there is no effective mechanism for implementing laws in Russia.

The newspaper ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA publishes excerpts from a report by a group of scientists from the

institute of expertise of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs. "The Government has not made unrectifiable mistakes yet," the report said.

The youth daily KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA comments on Ukraine's attempts to find new oil suppliers, including in Iran, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

"Oil-processing plants will receive only 30 per cent of oil they need in the second quarter of the year. Some ministers and industrialists believe it is cheaper to buy oil in Russia," the newspaper said.

The NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA said Nagorno-Karabakh is considering possibilities for rejecting Russia's mediation in settling the conflict in the disputed enclave. "The leaders in Stepanakert believe Iran's mediation looks more attractive," the newspaper said.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA carries an article by Valeriy Dmitriyev, an employee of the Russian-American University, in which he speaks about defence problems in Russia.

"Defence expenditures of five to six per cent of the gross national product are quite acceptable for Russia. The army and the navy should not have more than one million men. Considerable cuts in the country's armed forces increase the role of nuclear weapons as an effective means preventing war. We should dismiss ideological and sensational conceptions and approaches, like a conception of defensive character of military development, which contradicts the nature of armed struggle," Dmitriyev said.

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA publishes an interview with Eduard Drozdov, Moscow's chief nargologist [as received].

"The current political, economic and moral crisis affects people causing stresses, fear, despair and uncertainty. As a result, they try to 'relax' with the help of alcohol and drugs," Drozdov said.

International Affairs

Yeltsin Decrees Sanctions Against Libya

OW2304163292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1611 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin has ordered suspending any shipments or sales of arms, military equipment, military transport vehicles or equipment used in their servicing or production. The decision was made in keeping with the UN Security Council's sanctions on Libya. The President's decree signed on April 22 bans the sales of any aircraft to that country, too. The presidential decree says the measures are temporary.

All government agencies have been ordered to withdraw military advisers from Libya.

The Russian foreign and interior ministries have been asked to take steps to reduce the Libyan Embassy staff in the Russian Federation, lower the level of the Libyan Embassy and impose travel restrictions on Libyan diplomats.

All air flights to or from Libya, will be canceled. Besides Russian air space will be closed to planes making landings in Libya. The operation of the Libyan Arab Airlines offices is suspended.

Military Specialists Leave

LD2304160892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1444 GMT 23 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Krutikhin]

[Text] Cairo, 23 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—According to reports from Tripoli, CIS military specialists stopped work in Libya today and left the country. There were about 1,500 such specialists working at military facilities.

They were recalled in accordance with Point 5 of the UN Security Council resolution specifying sanctions against Libya for refusing to hand over for trial two of its citizens who are accused of organizing the blowing up of airliners. The international community has demanded that any military aid to a regime that encourages terrorism in the air and shields murderers should be stopped.

Diplomats from 12 countries are leaving Tripoli at the same time. The Libyan authorities demanded that they leave because their states have reduced the number of officials at Libyan diplomatic missions in accordance with the same resolution of the UN Security Council

Yeltsin To Meet Japan's Watanabe 4 May

LD2404045292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0348 GMT 24 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Solntsev]

[Excerpt] Tokyo, 24 Apr—Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe will meet Russian President Boris Yeltsin on 4 May, Watanabe himself told a news conference after a regular cabinet meeting here today. The conversation with Yeltsin will be the culmination of the Japanese minister's coming trip to a number of CIS Republics. This will be the first meeting between the present head of Japan's foreign policy department and the Russian president.

Watanabe will leave Japan on 29 April for visits to Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. Today's YOMIURI reports that he intends to meet Presidents Askar Akayev and Nursultan Nazarbayev and to confirm for them Tokyo's intention "to support actively these Republics' advances toward democracy and a market economy." However, Japanese Foreign Ministry sources told ITAR-TASS that the program for the Japanese minister's visits to Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan has yet to be finalized.

Watanabe will arrive in Moscow on 2 May to meet Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev on 3-4 May. The Japanese side at these talks, as well as at the Yeltsin talks to follow, intends to focus on the territorial problem. Tokyo hopes that moves can be made toward a settlement during the Russian president's visit to Japan, planned for September. [passage omitted]

Russian, Japanese Ministers To Meet 3 May

OW2304190392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1825 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] May 3 and 4 in Moscow Foreign Ministers of Russia and Japan will hold negotiations, the representative of the Japanese Embassy to Russia Hiroshi Sigeta said at a briefing, Thursday [23 April] Moscow. According to the diplomat, international situation and bilateral relations will be discussed at the negotiations. He also reported that probably May 4 the Foreign Minister of Japan Michio Watanabe will have a meeting with the Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Khirosi Sigeta expressed his hope that the territorial issue, spoiling the Japanese-Russian relations, will be solved in the near future.

Sigeta said that Watanabe will arrive to Moscow April 29 but apparently this very day he will depart for Kyrgystan and Kazakhstan as Japan pays great attention to the relations with these states.

More detailed information May be found in the issue of "Diplomatic Panorama" dated April 24.

Ministry Denies Japanese Compromise Talks

LD2304162392 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1024 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Moscow, 23 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—The information and press department of the Russian Federation Foreign

Ministry has refuted reports that have appeared in the press, including some quoting Japanese officials, concerning negotiations on a compromise in the matter of territorial demarcation, which were said to have taken place during the official visit to Japan by Andrey Kozyrev, foreign minister of the Russian Federation.

The statement circulated here today says that "the comparison of stances which took place on the matter in question, (stances) based on unchanged approaches which had been drawn up by the Soviet Union and Japan, once again demonstrated their incompatibility. The Russian Foreign Ministry confirms its readiness to continue the pursuit of a complete normalization of relations and the concluding of a peace treaty with Japan on the basis of the principle of legality and justice set forth by the president of Russia in September 1991."

Japan Seeks G-7 Support for Kurils Stance

PM2304151192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 4

[Report by Sergey Agafonov: "Tokyo Insists: First the Islands, Then Aid. Japan Expects To Make the Granting of Western Aid to Russia Conditional on the Solution of the 'Islands Question'"]

[Text] Tokyo—Judging by Prime Minister Miyazawa's address to Liberal Democratic Party functionaries at the resort of Atami last weekend and the lecture given by Japanese Foreign Minister and Vice Premier Watanabe in Tochigi Prefecture, some fundamentally new nuances have appeared in Tokyo's approach to the notorious territorial question.

The Japanese cabinet head designated the present time as the long-awaited period that will bring a solution of the territorial dispute with the northern neighbor and will lead to the realization of Japan's national aspiration, enshrined in the demand for the return of the islands of Habomai, Shikotan, Kunashir, and Iturup to Japan. The news was that Miyazawa defined the territorial question not as a bilateral problem in relations between Moscow and Tokyo, but as a problem for the West as a whole in contacts with Russia. The actual urge to globalize the well-known question had surfaced before, but it was perhaps the first time the leader of the cabinet had voiced it so confidently.

It is not clear from the text of the speech what this confidence is based on. At the same time, it was said that during the Japanese prime minister's upcoming visits to Bonn and Paris the territorial dispute with Russia will be on the talks agenda and that Japan will seek understanding of and support for Japan's demands on the part of the "big seven" [Group of Seven, G-7] at the upcoming meeting in Munich.

In his lecture Vice Premier and Japanese Foreign Ministry chief Watanabe placed the emphasis elsewhere, providing a general account of the new Japanese proposals and initiatives on the territorial question that have been presented to the Russian side. The proposals were described as flexible, but what they say is that Tokyo is prepared to allow Russia to govern Kunashir and Iturup temporarily, until they are handed over, on condition that it recognizes Japanese sovereignty over the islands. This does not apply to the other two islands, since they are to pass to Japan immediately on the implementation of the "two-stage formula" of normalization.

The "stages" the minister had in mind are as follows. At the first stage, according to the Japanese initiative expounded by the KYODO NEWS SERVICE, Russia will recognize Japanese sovereignty over all the disputed territories and hand over Habomai and Shikotan, whereupon a peace treaty will be signed between the two countries, which will name the the specific date of the transfer of the remaining two islands. At the second stage Kunashir and Iturup will be handed over, whereupon the problem will be deemed resolved. Tokyo portrays this formula as a serious "compromise move."

Both Miyazawa and Watanabe noted once again that there will be no serious discussion of full-scale Japanese economic aid without a solution of the territorial question. It is not a new approach, but it looks somewhat different given the desire to "globalize the topic" and against the background of the much vaunted "flexibility"—to all appearances, there is a growing feeling in Tokyo that it can put the squeeze on Moscow on territorial matters in the next few months: In the summer in Munich or in fall in Japan, when the Russian president makes a prearranged visit. At the meeting of the "seven" the Moscow guest will presumably be handed a package of economic aid conditions and the Japanese will seek to ensure that the territories are in this package as part of a "common Western position."

Yeltsin To Attend Rio Environment Conference

LD2304125192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin is planning to take part in the international summit meeting on environmental conservation issues which will be held in Rio de Janeiro in June. According to a report from a spokesman for Yeltsin, the Russian president will attend the meeting unless unforeseen problems arise in Russia.

Yeltsin Asks To Investigate CPSU in Italy

OW2304183692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1823 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Yeltsin has asked the prosecutor's office to contact the Foreign Ministry and present within a week's deadline proposals for inquiring, in cooperation with the Italian authorities, into Soviet Communist Party's financial operations in Italy. This is one of the items of a special instruction Boris Yeltsin signed in the

wake of the recent visit to Moscow by the Italian President Francesco Cossiga.

The instruction provides for drafting within two months a Russian-Italian treaty of cooperation on the basis of the treaty of friendship and cooperation the USSR and the Italian republic concluded in 1990. The new agreement would include articles of security, conversion and information exchanges.

The Russian Economics Ministry and the Ministry of External Economic ties have been asked to have negotiations with the Italian side on re-arranging Italian credit lines for the Russian Federation.

The director of the external intelligence service of the Russian Federation will visit Italy later this month to discuss questions of mutual interest with the leaders of Italian ministries and agencies.

Talks on Training Center To Resume With Cuba

OW2304170492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1611 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In the near future Russia and Havana will simultaneously announce resuming talks on withdrawal of the Russian training center from the Cuban territory. The Russian Foreign Ministry reported to "IF" [INTERFAX] that among others this issue was discussed during the bilateral consultations held in Moscow and attended by Deputy Foreign Minister of Russia Georgiy Mamedov and First Deputy Foreign Minister of Cuba Alcibiades Hidalgo.

At present the armed forces of the former Soviet Union in Cuba number more than two thousands. The first round of the negotiations, December last year, was fruitless as the parties did not negotiate the principles and concrete schedule of the training center withdrawal. The second meeting is expected to be held in Havana May this year. Instead of the former USSR, Russia will participate in the negotiations as, according to Yeltsin's decree, the deployed in Cuba military contingent is under the Russian jurisdiction.

Bush Address on U.S. Cuban Policy Assessed

PM2404103792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 4

[Report by Yevgeniy Bay: "The United States Sends New Ultimatum to Castro and Threatens Future Supporters of His Regime With Sanctions"]

[Text] At the weekend the White House made a tough statement on Cuba. The statement, issued at G. Bush's out-of-town residence in Kennebunkport (Maine), says that "any assistance to the Castro regime will prolong the Cuban people's hardship and suffering."

The White House statement concerns the "Law on Support for Democracy in Cuba," the draft of which has been submitted for scrutiny by Congress. The law envisages, in particular, a tougher embargo and the elimination of "new loopholes" Castro is exploiting to ensure his survival. In all probability, the law will enter into effect this year and will be geared, according to G. Bush, to increasing Cuba's isolation "until democratic changes take place on this island, which is living in a state of siege."

In his statement the U.S. President also announced that he had personally "instructed the Department of the Treasury to restrict still further the movement of ships between the United States and Cuba and also adopted documents prohibiting ships involved in trade with Cuba from calling at U.S. ports."

The tone of the White House statement is reminiscent of Washington's harsh anticommunist statements during the Caribbean crisis. But why was it adopted at this particular moment? In recent weeks the administration has been under increasing pressure from the Cuban emigre community, influential in the state of Florida, and so important as far as the result of the presidential election is concerned. On the other hand, White House spokesmen themselves believe, REUTER reports, that now is the time to put the squeeze on Castro.

"We need to strike while the iron is hot"—the agencies were quoting G. Bush, who noted in particular in his statement that after Russia cancelled all subsidies to Cuba, the authoritarian regime was "left to its own devices." Cuba was deprived of a source of economic and military assistance, the declaration says. Its trade with the new independent states of the CIS constitutes only a small part of the trade with the former Soviet Union.

At the same time, in our view there is no evidence as yet that the regime is going to fall in the very near future. Like Saddam Husayn, Castro forestalls any possibility of an army plot. Moreover, he is actually finding "survival loopholes."

For instance, in January Havana signed an agreement with "Petrobras," the Brazilian state oil company, on drilling for oil off the coast of Cuba. Almost simultaneously a two-year agreement was reached on cooperation in the sphere of nuclear energy with Iran and North Korea. In February Cuba signed a five-year agreement with the former Soviet republics of Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, which produce coal, cotton, wheat, and meat. Sunday [19 April] saw the announcement of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Cuba and Georgia.

According to AP, even U.S. companies have increased exports of grain and wheat to Cuba, using foreign branches to override the embargo. In 1988 they supplied food worth $56 million. In the past year this figure has risen to $500 million.

Finally, Castro exploits to great advantage visits to the island by Cuban emigres living in Miami. The drawing up of documents (the Havana authorities issue special passports for visits to Cuba), the receipt of food parcels from them for relatives, and the provision of a telephone linkup between Cuba and the United States bring in between $250 million and $300 million per year.

Of course, these gobbets of assistance will not replace the Soviet Union's mighty support, which kept the Castro reigme afloat for three decades. But they will enable Havana to survive, hardly.

In this situation the regime could "release the stopcock" and provoke the mass flight of Cubans from the island. But this is precisely what the United States is privately warning the Cuban leader against. A repetition of the events of April-May 1980 (around 120,000 people left the island in a matter of weeks) would be regarded by Washington as an "act of war," the journal U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT writes.

Bush's people are sure, one official U.S. spokesman said, that Havana's operation involving Cuban emigres was one of the reasons for Jimmy Carter's departure in 1980. And they have no wish to "go through all that themselves."

Grachev on Russian Troop Pullout From Poland

PM2304143092 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Apr 92 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Colonel General Pavel Grachev, Russian Federation first deputy defense minister, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given: "$300 Million To Provide Facilities for Servicemen Being Withdrawn From Poland"—first three paragraphs and last paragraph are KRASNAYA ZVEZDA introduction and conclusion]

[Text] The latest round of the Russian-Polish talks on problems of the withdrawal of the Northern Group of Forces did not give rise to optimism. Diplomats and specialists have been marking time for more than a year. This time the impasse became apparent on the very first day of the meeting. Only it was still more rigidly delineated. It was overcome on the second day largely thanks to the decisive and unbending stand taken by the head of our delegation at the talks—Colonel General Pavel Sergeyevich Grachev, Russian Federation first deputy defense minister.

For the first time in the entire history of the talks our delegation was headed not by a Foreign Ministry representative but by a high-ranking military leader with excellent knowledge of what must be sought in order to ensure acceptable living conditions in the new places where the troops being withdrawn are to be stationed. In addition, the country's president has personally vested him with powers to adopt responsible decisions.

It is possible to gain a fuller picture of the results of the talks in Warsaw from the interview which Col. Gen. P. Grachev granted to our correspondent.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] What is your assessment of the latest round of Russian-Polish talks on the withdrawal of the Northern Group of Forces? Was a solution found to the chief problem of settling the property and financial accounts connected with the troops' presence and withdrawal?

[Grachev] In my view, the deadlock over the basic question—the financial and property question—was finally overcome. True, the discussion was very difficult: All the time the Polish side was trying to force us to agree to the "zero" option—not to take account of the damage we have done to ecology nor, at the same time, to count the cost of the installations we are leaving behind. This is the first point. The second, most important point is that on the second day and even in the final hour the working documents which had been drawn up were agreed upon. Both we and the Poles will show them to our leaders: to Russian President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin, and the Polish diplomats to their president and government. The working document consists of seven points. I believe that with its help it is possible to resolve the financial and property question in all fairness. I believe that we will initial this document in time for Mr. Walesa's visit to Moscow and that Walesa and Yeltsin will sign this document during the Russian-Polish summit meeting itself.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] Our countries' businessmen very frequently complain that the installations left behind by the Northern Group of Forces units that are withdrawn frequently are not utilized and fall into disrepair at a time when they could be of mutual benefit. Are any prospects being opened up for businessmen from Poland, Russia, and other countries to make joint use of the installations being freed?

[Grachev] The Polish leadership does not permit private entrepreneurs to conclude contracts directly with us to set up joint ventures based on our real estate, although there are very many who would like to do so on both the Polish and the Russian side. There are plenty of businessmen from other countries who would like to do so, too. But Polish law makes no provision for such a possibility, and such a deal can only be concluded through the Polish Government. One of the points in our working document contains a provision which allows the creation of joint ventures at certain installations—and there are quite a lot of them—with the profit from their future economic activity going to provide facilities for our troops being withdrawn to Russia.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] The Northern Group of Forces possesses considerable stocks of material assets. It is not advantageous to take all of them home because of the transport costs. Was a compromise found in respect of

movable property? Will the Northern Group of Forces be permitted to sell it on the spot to interested Polish and foreign firms?

[Grachev] Movable property is sold according to the plan of the commander of the Northern Group of Forces. In our plans we provide for the removal to Russia of a considerable proportion of the movable property, but we have also proposed an option under which, if the Polish side shows interest, a large part of the property could be sold to them. The Poles are considering this question, and I believe that they will be interested in buying a large part of the movable property.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] But, again, for this it is necessary to obtain the Polish side's permission. For there is still a ban on Polish entrepreneurs buying anything from us, and all deals of this kind have unilaterally been declared "illegal" with all the ensuing consequences of a repressive kind for firms...

[Grachev] I believe that the Poles are more interested in trade.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] Could you tell me the approximate total value of the real estate we are leaving behind in Poland—various installations constructed with the funds of the Defense Ministry of the former USSR? Was a compromise found with the Polish side in the matter of selling it?

[Grachev] Unfortunately, no. We have calculated with our experts that our real estate being left behind in Poland is valued, according to the most modest estimates, at something of the order of $400 million. But the Poles reckon that we are not being objective. Their amounts have plainly been understated, but they have not given us their figures. We have offered to let Poland have 25 percent of this $400 million, i.e. $100 million, as compensation for the ecological harm caused by us. We intend to use the remaining $300 million to provide facilities for the troops being withdrawn to Russia.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] Something like 7,500 of the Northern Group of Forces servicemen being withdrawn do not have apartments to go to. Will these and other funds derived from the economic activities of joint ventures and the sale of movable property be used primarily to provide facilities for the troops in their new places of stationing?

[Grachev] Not just primarily but, on the whole, precisely for this. We do not need "extra money" from the Polish side to build any other installations, except for the construction of housing for 7,500 Northern Group of Forces servicemen without apartments so that we can use this money either to build apartments or to buy them. This is the only thing we need. We demand nothing else of the Polish side. Particularly as we need approximately $300 million for the construction of apartments—then we will be able to provide servicemen of the Northern Group of Forces with housing. [interview ends]

So, the position of the Russian Defense Ministry with regard to the withdrawal of the Northern Group of Forces has been revealed with the utmost clarity. It only remains to hope that it will assume finished form in the documents which are finally agreed on and signed. We do not believe that reaching a compromise connected with transactions concerning the troops' presence and withdrawal accords with the interests of Russia alone. It accords no less with the interests of Poland and its people. Because we have to continue living next to each other. But to live and not be friends nor trade on mutually advantageous terms—who needs this or benefits from it?

Kozyrev Interviewed on Relations With Kuwait

LD2304114192 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0740 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] Moscow, 23 Apr (KUNA)—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has expressed his satisfaction with the new dynamism and the rich contents that the strong Kuwaiti-Russian relations have now acquired. In an interview with KUNA here today before the start of his Gulf tour, which includes all the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states, Kozyrev said that the recent visit of his highness the amir of Kuwait to Moscow gave these relations a major boost.

He indicated that the exchange of ideas between the Russian and Kuwaiti sides has proved that bilateral ties between the two countries have a solid base that lies in finding a joint interest for close cooperation on international and regional issues and for the development of mutually beneficial economic ties. Kozyrev also stressed that Russia, which constitutes a legitimate successor of the former Soviet Union, has enormous consideration for the friendly people of Kuwait. He added that Moscow stood firmly by Kuwait during the hard ordeal to which it was subjected during the tyrannical Iraqi occupation. He went on to say that Russia is still demanding with firmness that Iraq complies fully and strictly with the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions on the matter.

Kozyrev expressed his conviction that Russia and Kuwait can do a great deal to improve the situation in the Gulf region and the Middle East at large, and for mutual benefit in the trade and economic domains. Kozyrev pointed to his country's gratitude for Kuwait's financial help for the new state of Russia despite the particularly acute problems facing Kuwait in the reconstruction of the Kuwaiti economy, especially in the oil sector. Kozyrev said: We attach a lot of interest to this visit which we consider as the first by the foreign minister of Federal Russia to the GCC member states. He further said that these states had stayed outside the activity of the diplomacy of the former Soviet Union for several years, and it seems also that these states did not trust us and did not seek coordination and cooperation.

He went on to say: But now in the conditions of the lifting of the ideological character from the policy of

Russia, especially after the Gulf states became sure during the vicious Iraqi occupation of Kuwait of the sincerity of Russia as a partner, propitious conditions have appeared for moving toward the deepening of common understanding and cooperation. The situation cannot be otherwise, he said, since the matter involves neighboring states.

Kozyrev indicated that the two sides have many topics to discuss, particularly the need to hold an in-depth dialogue on the possible development of bilateral ties, especially as we [as received] possess in this field a huge potential that remains unexploited in the areas of loans and economic and commercial exchanges. Kozyrev emphasized Russia's readiness to keep the doors wide open for Arab businessmen in the public and private sectors and to set up a suitable basis for work in this field.

He also mentioned the possibility of exchanging expertise in the scientific and technological fields and paving the way for commercial exchanges, including the raw materials needed by the Gulf states. He then talked about Russia's need for Arab loans and investments and advanced western equipment and technology, particularly in the oil and petrochemical industries. He said in this respect that coordination will be established in the extraction and sale of oil for mutual benefit.

Kozyrev pointed out that the issue of security in the Gulf and Middle East region will be one of the subjects that will be high on the agenda of the talks. He then referred to the interest of the Arab partners and Russia in the stability of the regions adjacent to the CIS. He added: "There is no doubt that the political transformations and the economic reforms taking place in the Federation of Russia constitute a subject of interest for the Arab leaders."

Answering a question about the efforts that Russia is making to secure the release of the Kuwaiti prisoners held in Kuwait, Kozyrev said that his country firmly adheres to the line that calls for the need to remove the consequences of the aggression against Kuwait, including the return of the Kuwaiti prisoners to the homeland. Kozyrev stressed the need to find a solution to this "painful" case within a short period, otherwise stability in the Gulf area will not be "realistic." Kozyrev expressed Russia's deep understanding of the problem of prisoners because the Russian prisoners in Afghanistan have not all returned to the homeland so far. He said: "Hence, the fate of the Kuwaiti citizens will be a focus of Russia's attention, and we will continue efforts to secure their return home." He further said: "At the same time we hope that Kuwait itself, through its own channels, will strive for the release of the Russian prisoners held by the [Afghan] mojahedin." Minister Kozyrev affirmed his country's readiness to work closely with the states of the region on a bilateral or collective basis to guarantee security and peace in the Gulf region.

Kozyrev Departs for Visit of Gulf Countries

LD2304162492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1209 GMT 23 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow, April 23 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev today departs on a working visit to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Oman.

Viktor Posuvalyuk, director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Africa and Middle East Department, told ITAR-TASS the Russian delegation intends to reiterate Russia's readiness and interest in developing ties and cooperation with the Gulf countries in various areas. Although relations with these countries are new-shaped, they have been developing very dynamically and constructively recently. Russia regards the Gulf countries as reliable partners both at the regional and international level.

Russia treats with understanding the Gulf countries' desire to create a collective security system in the region, which is not conceived as some exclusive group, but presupposes a system of measures and agreements of the broadest nature between states.

According to Posuvalyuk, during the visit the Russian side plans to discuss the development of ties with the Gulf countries in the credit and investment spheres, the use of Russian scientific-technical personnel and also to confirm readiness to implement projects especially in the areas where Russia has vast experience and knowledge—water management and oil facilities, medicine and aerospace research.

Factors Influencing Najibollah's Fate Analyzed

MK2304133592 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 23 Apr 92 p 1

[German Smirnov article under "Version" rubric: "Najibollah Could Have But Didn't Want To"]

[Text] According to one of the versions doing the rounds, the Russian authorities were involved in the recent events in Afghanistan. The editorial office tried to elucidate whether or not this corresponded to reality, and this is what we found out.

Our special services in Kabul were in possession of information on the possible organization of terrorist acts against the Russian military specialists in the Republic of Afghanistan. The information was passed on up the line, but for incomprehensible reasons the president of Russia was able to acquaint himself with it only on 7 April. Although the apprehensions over the fate of our compatriots proved to be unjustified, Boris Nikolayevich himself—having learned with some surprise, as they say, of our continuing military presence in the Republic of Afghanistan—ordered the urgent evacuation

of all the military specialists. Their return home coincided with the planned reduction in Russian Embassy and trade mission personnel. During the period 9-15 April six flights by Il-76 military transports brought the military specialists and representatives of the special services back home. It is reasonable to ask if the mass evacuation of Russians from Kabul did not influence the decisive actions undertaken against Najibollah by his opponents in the highest echelon of power and persuade the ex-president to hit the road.

In the words of our returning compatriots, however, it is still a mystery to them why Najibollah did not take advantage of the "opportunity" and only arrived at the airfield 16 April, that is, the day following the completion of the evacuation. For our fellow citizens this is something of an April Fool's joke.

Afghan Opposition Leader Urges Russia's Help

MK2404100092 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Apr 92 p 4

[Interview with Gulbuddin Hekmatyar by Andrey Karaulov "at end of December in Islamabad" under "Afghanistan" rubric: "Gulbuddin Hekmatyar: We Will Go to Moscow Via Kabul. One Leader of Afghan Opposition Has Long Been Preparing for Talks With Russia"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] Your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent Andrey Karaulov met with Hekmatyar, one of the leaders of the Afghan opposition, at the end of December in Islamabad. At that time there was talk of leaders of the Afghan opposition coming to Moscow for talks. Today we are publishing a short excerpt from a conversation that took place then—an excerpt that has now become particularly topical.

[Karaulov] Do you not want to come to Moscow now?

[Hekmatyar] We will definitely come to Moscow, but via Kabul. After the Afghan question is resolved. You would do well to help us resolve the question of Afghanistan and do what is necessary to bring about peace in Kabul, and then there will not be any difficulties.

[Karaulov] Are you really the most influential person among the mujahidin?

[Hekmatyar] Let us leave this question until the elections.

[Karaulov] When will the elections be held?

[Hekmatyar] It all depends on how quickly the present regime in Kabul is removed and an interim government comes to power. That is when we will hold elections. The main thing now is to remove the foundation that makes it possible for the country to be ruled by people who obtained power as a result of revolutions and an anti-people conspiracy.

[Karaulov] I wonder why you have so little protection?

[Hekmatyar] I have no one to be afraid of here in Islamabad. In general, I am not afraid of anyone at all. I am not Najib, who is afraid of everyone.

[Karaulov] What do you do in your spare time?

[Hekmatyar] I study various spheres of learning.

[Karaulov] Which ones?

[Hekmatyar] All kinds. First and foremost I study literature. I have a very big library. Or I write. So far I have already written 48 books...

Andronov on Afghanistan Mission Failure

OW2404112592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1055 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Iona Andronov, a special envoy sent to Afghanistan by Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy, has said his mission was interrupted and foiled and placed the responsibility on the Russian Foreign Ministry.

In an exclusive interview for IF [INTERFAX] he said that the purpose of his mission to Kabul was to guarantee the security of compatriots remaining there and continue efforts to release POW'S. For that purpose he was supposed to contact opposition leaders, including Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, whom Andronov has known for a long time.

Mr. Andronov claims that back in Tashkent where he made a stopover on the way to Kabul he noticed signs of attempts to foil his mission. Upon his arrival in the Afghan capital he received a message from Deputy Foreign Minister Georgy Kunadze urging him to return to Moscow immediately.

The envoy of the vice-president says it was an attempt to settle scores with him because before his departure to Kabul he spoke at the Congress of People's Deputies and criticized the policy of Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev in the Dniester River valley.

Mr. Andronov flatly denied reports that the Afghan Foreign Minister 'Abdol Wakil showed no confidence in him. "At least 'Abdol Wakil did not make any public statements to this end", the envoy said. He added that his arrival and stay in Kabul did not arouse any dissatisfaction from the authorities. He recognized the possibility of a negative response from some of Najibullah's aides to the possibility of meetings between the Russian envoy and opposition leaders, especially Hekmatiar.

Mr. Andronov said there are still people at the Russian Foreign Ministry "clinging to political corpses in Afghanistan". In his opinion certain leading officials at the ministry tried to settle accounts with him and prevented planned contacts with Hekmatiar and other Afghan opposition figures "who will yet determine the future of the country".

Federation Affairs

Yeltsin, Cabinet Meeting Agenda Detailed

OW2304180292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1712 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] INTERFAX reporters Andrey Pershin and Yevgeniy Terekhov have learned details from Russian Cabinet spokesmen about the agenda of the Cabinet meeting which will take place on Friday, April 24. This meeting was postponed one day to allow time for a more thorough study of the issues which would be raised for discussion.

The tentative agenda for the meeting includes four items. First Vice Premier Yegor Gaydar is to report on the results of the Sixth Congress of People's Deputies and on further steps to be taken by the government. Cabinet circles expect him to announce plans for a reshuffling of the ministries. There is the possibility of three or four new ministerial appointments. It is thought that the changes will primarily affect the posts of Vice Premier and Minister of Industry, and that the Ministries of Labor and Employment and the Ministry of Social Welfare may be joined together.

Also to be discussed at the cabinet meeting is a reorganization of industrial management structures. Boris Yeltsin has proposed enlarging the cabinet with three or four experts who would be in charge of large economic sectors since the existing system "has not proved effective."

Finance Minister Vasiliy Barchuk will deliver a report on the second item in the agenda—budgetary results for the first quarter of 1992 and budgetary plans for the second quarter. INTERFAX has learned from Finance Ministry experts that Mr. Barchuk considers the goal of a non-deficit budget fundamentally unrealistic. It was Mr. Barchuk who came up with the idea which is now being studied to introduce indexing of deposits and income.

Economic Minister Andrey Nechayev will present information on state regulation of prices on energy products. Sources close to the cabinet expect that he will promote his long-pondered proposal for incremental increases in the prices of energy products and will recommend that the cabinet introduce price ceilings to place limits on price hikes by producers.

The fourth and last item on the agenda will be a report by Vice- President Aleksandr Rutskoy and Agriculture Minister Viktor Khlystun on the creation of a center on agricultural and land reforms. Yevgenia Serova, economic advisor to Minister Khlystun told INTERFAX that the proposed center was envisioned as an extra-ministerial body to oversee the implementation of rural reforms. In her opinion, this process will be made much more difficult by the Congress' refusal to permit the free sale of land. Ms. Serova also noted that there existed substantial disagreements on a number of key reform issues between the postions worked out by the Vice-President's office and the Ministry. Mr. Rutskoy's proposal is for the privatization of plots of land by issuing certificates to a specially-created land bank. Ms. Serova does not agree with Mr. Rutskoy's idea that discharged soldiers will be flocking to the countryside to become farmers. Zig-zagging in agrarian policy, Ms. Serova fears, may undermine the peasantry's last remnants of faith in the government.

Gaydar Cites Reform's 'Second Stage'

LD2404092192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0852 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Moscow April 24 TASS—Prices for fuel in Russia is a major issue which is to be settled by May 10, according to Yegor Gaydar, the Russian first deputy prime minister.

Another urgent problem is the insolvency of certain enterprises which were granted state credits, he said on Friday [24 April] at a meeting of the Russian Government.

The restructuring of the government will affect the Ministry of Industry, and the "bloc of socially-oriented departments" will be strengthened, according to Gaydar.

The main tasks of the second stage of reforms in Russia is to restructure foreign trade mechanism and get rid of cash money deficit by introducing payments by written order. The system of exports regulation will be simplified, Gaydar said.

The government will also engage in working out a long-term programme of Russian economic revival, as it has received "in fact, a vote of confidence and a mandate for further implementation of reforms" from the Sixth Congress of Russian People's Deputies, the first deputy prime minister said.

Nechayev Outlines Fuel Price Plans

LD2404110192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0917 GMT 24 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, 24 Apr—The outline for alterations in oil and gas prices was submitted to members of the cabinet today at the session of the Russian Government. Economy Minister Andrey Nechayev said that the plan envisages the introduction of a fixed price range "within which enterprises are free to maneuver" and the introduction of a sliding scale of duties.

The limits for oil have been set at between 1,800 and 2,200 rubles [R] per tonne and for natural gas at 1,100 - 1,600 per thousand cubic meters for all consumers apart from the population. Provision of gas for subsequent sale to the population is to be effected at the current price of R260 for 1,000 cubic meters. The sliding scale of duties

received by the federal budget makes excessive price hikes unprofitable for the producers of energy resources. Sales of oil and gas at prices that exceed the limits will be regarded as in violation of state pricing discipline and a fine equal to the excess profit obtained will be levied.

The draft decision on the state regulation of prices for energy resources, which has been examined at the session and which could, according to Andrey Nechayev, be put into effect within the next 10- 14 days, also contains proposed retail prices for gasoline.

According to Andrey Nechayev, the increase in fuel prices will "be reflected in the overall level of market prices, and will lead to these increasing by approximately 150 percent." The minister said that the present increase in fuel prices is essential to stabilize the work of industry and to curb inflation.

Yeltsin, Petrov Discuss Resignation, Congress

LD2304164392 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1616 GMT 23 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 23 Apr—The Russian president has not accepted the resignation of Yuriy Petrov, the leader of his apparat. ITAR-TASS learned this from well-informed circles close to the president.

According to information from these same circles, Boris Yeltsin today held a meeting with Yuriy Petrov, the head of the president's administration. In the course of their conversation, they discussed issues pertaining to the implementation of the resolutions of the Sixth Congress of Russian People's Deputies and the reorganization of presidential structures, the government apparat, as well as other problems.

Yuriy Petrov submitted his resignation on 6 April after several media sources and Russian people's deputies were harshly critical of his activities in the post of leader of the president's administration.

Yeltsin To Remain Interim Defense Minister

MK2404093092 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Apr 92 p 2

[Pavel Felgengauer report under "Army" rubric: "Yeltsin Remains Minister of Defense. A Temporary Solution From Which No Quick Way Out Is Visible"]

[Text] There is every reason to believe that the state commission that is at present involved in the formation of the Russian Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces will propose that Boris Yeltsin remain in the post of minister of defense for at least another three months. Thus, following the signing of the decrees on the army which is planned to coincide with the 9 May Victory, Yeltsin will most probably combine the posts of formal (ritual) commander in chief and actual minister of defense. A very complex situation will be created involving mutual subordination between Yeltsin the president, Yeltsin the prime minister, and Yeltsin the minister of defense, with the corresponding circulation of documents and instructions between the departments.

However, there is nothing new in this. When an official document traverses the present Russian Government offices the indicative opinions (resolutions) and instructions of the leadership are affixed to the top left-hand corner of the document on small pieces of paper. In this way the margins of the document remain unmarked, while the affixed piece of paper can always be unpinned, thereby avoiding any sort of unpleasantness. And the practice of holding more than one office, especially at the level of the various state commissions and committees, is so prevalent within the present Russian administration that on virtually every document it is possible to find one or other affixed instruction from one leading official to himself—but in another capacity.

Combining a post has become a completely natural way of life in the wonderful system of executive organs of power created by President Yeltsin. It is clear that with any other president such an administration will not function. That is particularly why Yeltsin has no reasonable alternative, and the clamorous endeavors of the multihued parliamentary opposition at the congress of people's deputies to "bring down" or somehow seriously alter the government were rendered hopeless from the very outset.

Nor is there any alternative to Yeltsin in the post of defense minister. Boris Nikolayevich himself has just offered this position to General Volkogonov, chairman of the state commission to form a Russian army. But Dmitriy Antonovich declined the flattering offer, citing his age and his involvement in parliament and other posts.

The next most obvious ministerial candidate is Marshal of Aviation Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, the last USSR minister of defense and the first commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces. But his candidacy arouses serious objections among many influential people in Yeltsin's entourage. The chief formal objection lies in the fact that Shaposhnikov was appointed for two years to the post of CIS Joint Armed Forces commander in chief with the agreement (rare ocurrence!) of all the CIS presidents, and to appoint him Russian defense minister may lead to serious diplomatic unpleasantness.

But Shaposhnikov's opponents also put forward more serious arguments: For eight months now the marshal has been head of the army and in all this time nothing has been done to initiate serious military reform. Moreover, he has just not been able to formulate his own, in any way coherent conception of the army's organizational development in the fundamentally new conditions. The sharp reduction in defense expenditure and the disintegration of the unified Armed Forces into national contingents has clearly taken the supreme army leadership by surprise—to the extent it could, it has only

reacted to the abrupt changes and has awaited guiding instructions from some unknown quarter. And there are no grounds for supposing that the former military leadership will act under the tricolor in any way that is fundamentally better than it did under the former red banner. For as we know, war is much too serious a matter to be left to the generals.

However, Marshal Shaposhnikov also has his undoubted merits as far as the new power is concerned: He has fully demonstrated his personal devotion to President Yeltsin. During preparations for the Belovezhskaya meeting, during the negotiations, and in those critically important days at the beginning of December 1991 when the position the army would take up was being decided, Marshal Shaposhnikov took the only correct decision—he immediately and fully supported President Yeltsin, and not his official boss and commander in chief Gorbachev.

If the question of Russian defense minister is to be resolved in the next few weeks then, in the opinion of influential individuals in the Russian leadership who are aware of all the circumstances, the president will appoint Shaposhnikov. And the only possibility of avoiding the said decision, which is undesirable for his ill-wishers, consists in prolonging the present indeterminate situation for several months—and then we shall see, as they say.

Yeltsin is no minister of defense, but first deputy ministers have already been appointed and are at work. And if necessary, others can be appointed at any time without even removing the former ones, as is often done in the government. There is every reason to believe that real power in the defense department will flow smoothly from one appointee to the next, without lingering anywhere for too long, but in full accord with the mood and intentions of the president. Just as generally happens throughout the apparatus of the presidential republic's executive power which is taking shape before our very eyes.

Khasbulatov Asks IMF To Relax Requirements

LD2404092392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0000 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Ruslan Khasbulatov, head of the Russian parliament, called on the IMF to relax its requirements with regard to economic reform in Russia. He stated this in an interview to DPA on the eve of his official visit to Germany which begins on 26 April. According to Khasbulatov, the republic's population will not be able to endure tough requirements in the sphere of taxation policy and price increases. The Russian parliament speaker spoke in favor of integrating Russia into the world economy, of reforms, and of close cooperation with the West. However, he warned against shock therapy during implementation of the reforms.

Baburin Notes Yeltsin Won Congress 'Battle'

LD2304193492 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1500 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Vera Shchelkunova report from Russia's House of Soviets]

[Text] There is a recess in the Supreme Soviet session until 11 May, but life in the White House is not coming to a stop. Today's events are in many respects linked with the past congress. Sergey Baburin, the leader of a movement with the sonorous name ROS—the Russian Nation-wide Union [Rossiyskiy Obshchenarodnyy Soyuz], held a news conference. He noted that at the congress the battle had been won by the president, who had managed to preserve the government and the course of reform. In this sense, Baburin admitted, the opposition had suffered a defeat, but, nevertheless, it had scored a fundamental moral victory, and this will make it possible, I quote, to introduce clarity into the consciousness of the majority of Russia's citizens.

According to Baburin, the opposition at the congress had made a colossal compromise by not demanding the resignation of the president and, for the sake of civic concord, confining itself only to a demand for the resignation of the government. In saying this, he noted that if the president asks the opposition's advice regarding the composition of the government, they have possibilities to propose candidacies for all posts, including also of the prime minister.

Also today, a meeting of the Supreme Soviet Presidium was held to discuss the plans for Parliaments's further work. It was decided in particuar to submit to the Supreme Soviet the following bills: On the bankruptcy of enterprises; on psychiatric aid to the population and the rights of citizens while it is being administered; on amendments to the code of labor laws.

Speaking at the Presidium, Ruslan Khasbulatov gave a very high assessment of President Yeltsin's concluding program speech, and added:

[Begin Khasbulatov recording] If everything said by the president is consistently implemented, we will not have any major problems in interrelations with the government. In this case the government must receive our support and, moreover, our defense. [end recording]

Congress Made 'Fatal Mistake'

LD2304152292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1328 GMT 23 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow April 23 TASS—A leader of the parliamentary block "the Russian Unity" Sergey Baburin said his faction had possibly made a critical mistake at the recent Congress of Russian People's Deputies by demanding resignation of the government rather than Yeltsin's resignation.

Baburin, addressing a news conference on Thursday [23 April], said the government, headed by Boris Yeltsin, "keeps on turning its back on Russia's interests", and pursues the policy of "large-scale betrayal of all Russia's allies". Baburin said the congress had made a fatal mistake by approving the government's economic policy.

Parliamentarians Mikhail Astafyev and Nikolay Pavlov supported Baburin's viewpoint. They forecast "quick death" to the government and termed its course of reform "destructive and murderous".

Journalists were told that the right opposition has started to work out a new draft Union treaty and has sent letters and telegrammes to the former Soviet republics asking them to express their point of view on the subject. No positive answers except from Gagauzia and the Dniester Region have arrived so far.

Opposition leaders also criticised heavily the mistakes in foreign policy, particularly regarding the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Pay Raise for Presidential Staff Ordered

PM2404084492 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Apr 92 p 1

["Decree of the President of the Russian Federation on Increasing Rates of Pay and Salaries of Staffers of Budget-Funded Institutions and Organizations in the Second Quarter of 1992," signed by Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin and dated 15 April 1992; plus KRASNAYA ZVEZDA footnote]

[Text] With a view to reinforcing the social protection of staffers of budget-funded institutions and organizations I resolve:

1. To raise rates of pay and salaries of staffers of budget-funded institutions and organizations in the second quarter of 1992 by 80 percent, setting their level at no less than 900 rubles [R] per month.

The wage increases are effected on top of the rates of pay and salaries increased in line with Russian Federation normative acts adopted in December 1991 and in the first quarter of 1992.

Other current conditions of pay of staffers of budget-funded institutions and organizations, including the size of supplements, additional payments, bonuses, and other incentive and compensation payments, remain in force.

2. The Russian Federation Government is to establish within one week regional timetables for phased increases of rates of pay and salaries of staffers of budget-funded institutions and organizations.

3. The Russian Federation Ministry of Labor and Employment and the Russian Federation Ministry of Finance, jointly with interested Russian Federation ministries and departments, are to submit to the Russian Federation Government in April 1992 proposals for setting absolute figures for the salaries of organization and institution staffers for whom they are defined in multiples of the minimum wage.

4. The Russian Federation Ministry of Finance is to define the procedure and sources of funding of expenditure to cover the wage increases envisaged by the present decree.

B. Yeltsin, Russian Federation president.

Moscow, Kremlin, 15 April 1992.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA footnote] We were told at the CIS Joint Armed Forces Labor and Wages Administration that the provisions of the decree of the Russian Federation president apply also to Army and Navy workers and employees. Subsequent editions of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA will report on this in detail.

Resolution on Northern Region Fulfilled

OW2304184992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1824 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Wednesday [22 April] the Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed a decree on urgent measures defending the populated areas and economic activity of the smaller peoples of the North.

According to this document Councils of Ministers of the Russian Federation Republics, local executive committees together with the regional associations of the Northern smaller peoples must define the territories of the traditional exploitation of natural resources, which are property of these peoples and without their consent cannot be annexed for industrial or other development ignoring traditional economics. Tribal communities and families of the Northern smaller peoples will receive without payment for life possession or rent deer's pastures, regions for hunting and fishing for all-round exploitation; and collective farms and Soviet farms—for permanent exploitation or rent. These categories of people have priority for making agreements and receiving licences for exploiting natural resources in the places of their traditional residence.

Further on Report on Economy's 1st Quarter Results

LD2304173692 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] The Russian State Statistics Committee concluded that the breaking of economic ties is the main cause of the drop in production in the Republic. It is reported that only 61 percent of the output planned for delivery in 1992 is covered by contracts, whereas for same period last year this figure was 87 percent. The situation for the conclusion of contracts for material

resources delivery is even more critical. Less than half of the number needed by the republican enterprises have been made.

Process of Forming Defense Ministry Viewed

PM2404091292 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Apr 92 p 2

[Vladimir Zelentsov article under the rubric "Army": "Scale of Future Changes Immense"]

[Text] No one doubted that sooner or later Russia would have its own armed forces. In practice, however, they existed earlier. The CIS Joint Armed Forces High Command and General Staff have, during all four months of the Commonwealth's troubled existence, been financed principally from the Russian budget. The vast majority of units and combined units of the former USSR Armed Forces, both those stationed on the Russian Federation's territory and those outside its borders, have been funded in that way. The only thing lacking was the basic documentation to confirm this obvious fact de jure. But this omission will also be put right soon. A state commission for creating a Russian Federation Ministry of Defense, Army, and Navy has appeared by order of the Russian president and begun work. The same order abolished the state committee for defense, eliciting mixed reactions among the people who were preparing to play the most active part in creating a Russian professional army headed by a civilian defense ministry.

There is of course the hope that many of the defense committee's plans and proposals in the sphere of military policy and the Russian armed forces' military organizational development will not fall by the wayside. But fears have already been expressed that an attempt will be made mechanically to transfer the administrative structures of the former USSR's Defense Ministry to Russia. These assumptions were fueled by the the commission itself, 20 of whose 38 members are generals of the CIS Joint Armed Forces High Command.

State Commission Chairman Dmitriy Volkogonov does not share these fears, believing that the appointed personnel can work fruitfully. Dmitriy Antonovich considers that the "Arbat military district," along with its whole complex of buildings which have had billions spent on equipment, should pass to the Russian military department's command. There is good reason for this: Given our grave economic situation, it does not pay to give up what a difficult fate has given you. But it is planned to reshape and reduce by 30-40 percent these departments' enormous staffs after they are transferred to Russian jurisdiction, giving preference to those professionals who are progressive thinkers. As General Yuriy Rodionov, a member of the state commission and chief of the Main Personnel Directorate, stated, a special certification committee will deal with the selection process. All generals and officers who now make up the core of the former Defense Ministry's leadership contingent will undergo its scrutiny.

In connection with this, I remember the rejoinder which one representative of military industrial circles once tossed out in conversation with me. "Consider this," he appealed, "just what is the military industrial complex? Now remove the first word and you will understand." And so I removed it. It turned out great. But if only everything was as simple as that...

The military organism is an exceptionally complex creation with fairly strong mechanisms creating inertia. In forming and at the same time reforming its old structures, Russia will of course come up against a number of extremely complicated problems. And among the first will be a problem closely tied to economics and finance. Even after regulating the trade in arms and equipment, which has mounted up in great quantities, the money made from this may not be enough. The sale of this type of output is a lucrative business, but one that does not always go smoothly. But it will be necessary to put it on a legal footing.

In order to imagine the scale of the future changes, I will adduce some figures. There are 2.1 million servicemen on the Russian Federation's territory today. After the units in the Baltic, Transcaucasus, and Moldova are transferred to the Russian Federation's jurisdiction another 400,000 will be added. Russia will not be able to feed such an army. For these reasons and due to the political concept linked with new priorities in the military sphere, the army will be reduced to 1.5 million men at first, and then by a further 250,000. You can only imagine how this will be done from a theoretical point of view at the moment. And fixing a timetable is completely unthinkable.

To all appearances there will be a transitional period. The only question is, who will dictate what rules to the army during this period of time, and what will be the legal foundations for setting in motion the reform and reduction of this great military machine, which, to its credit and honor, is showing fantastic patience at the moment. The state commission's members have been allotted period of one month to take accurate bearings on these points. We will find out as early as May who will take up the post of minister, and whether the Defense Ministry will be a military ministry, a civilian ministry, or a combination of the two.

When asking these questions today, it is worth remembering to be on the safe side (so that there is no pain or offense later): Corporative interests link people together more strongly than ideological preferences. For this reason it would not be out of place if a mechanism to monitor the military department's activities was ticking away like a Swiss clock at the very center of all this arduous work to create the Russian armed forces. It is only in this way that we can earn the right to call ourselves a civilized country and great power.

Naval Unit Draftees To Serve 2 Years

LD2404092692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0837 GMT 24 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Znamenskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 24 Apr—Russian citizens called up for active military service into border troop naval units during April-June 1992 will serve two years instead of three.

As an ITAR-TASS correspondent was told at the Committee for Guarding the CIS State Border, this order, dated 20 April, was signed by Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin. This procedure will remain in force until the CIS heads of state conclude a separate agreement on questions of manpower acquisition for the border troops of the Commonwealth.

Pensions Law To Come Into Force Early

PM2304155492 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Apr 92 First Edition p 2

["Law of the Russian Federation on the Early Introduction of the RSFSR Law 'On State Pensions in the RSFSR,'" signed by President of the Russian Federation B. Yeltsin and dated Moscow, Russian House of Soviets, 3 April 1992, No. 2654-1]

[Text] Article 1. The RSFSR Law "On State Pensions in the RSFSR" is to be brought into force in full from 1 May 1992 instead of the earlier projected date of 1 July 1992, with the exception indicated in Article 3 of the present Law.

Article 2. The minimum old-age pension awarded for a total labor record equal to that required to qualify for the full pension is to be increased to 800 rubles [R] per month.

Article 3. Until the stabilization and improvement of the economic situation in the Russian Federation, the maximum old-age pension payable for a total labor record equal to that required to qualify for the full pension is to be temporarily fixed at the level of two, instead of three times the minimum pension; and the maximum pension awarded in connection with underground work, work in dangerous conditions, and work in hot shops (Article 12, clause "a" of the RSFSR Law "On State Pensions in the RSFSR") is to be temporarily fixed at the level of two-and-a-half times instead of three-and-a-half times the minimum pension.

The said rule does not extend to citizens for whom the RSFSR Law "On State Pensions in the RSFSR" comes into force in full before 1 May 1992.

Article 4. Old-age pensioners who have continued to work after being awarded pensions in the capacity of workers (junior service personnel) or foremen, irrespective of their place of work, and also in the capacity of livestock raising and crop farming team leaders at state agricultural enterprises are to be awarded a supplement to their pensions of R10 for every full year of the said work prior to 1 March 1991, but not in excess of R40 in total, provided that on their own affirmation a pension has not been paid to them in that period.

Article 5. In 1993 permission is to be granted at citizens' request for their pensions to be awarded or reassessed in accordance with the RSFSR Law "On State Pensions in the RSFSR" on the basis of their average monthly earnings for their last 12 months—beginning from January 1992—in employment prior to applying for a pension or for reassessment of their existing pension.

Article 6. The indexation of pensions is to be carried out in line with the RSFSR Law "On the Indexation of the Monetary Income and Savings of Citizens in the RSFSR" from August 1992, provided that the index of consumer prices for May and June 1992 amounts to 106 percent or more.

If there is a centralized increase in the minimum pension, all pensions are increased in proportion to the increase in their minimum levels.

Article 7. In view of the increased cost of living and changes in the level of the nominal labor wage, the earnings on which pensions are calculated are to be increased by a factor of 11.2 for pensions awarded or reassessed in 1971 and earlier; by a factor of 10.9 for pensions awarded or reassessed in 1972; by a factor of 10.6 for 1973; by 10.3 for 1974; by 10.0 for 1975; by 9.7 for 1976; by 9.4 for 1977; by 9.1 for 1978; by 8.8 for 1979; by 8.5 for 1980; by 8.2 for 1981; by 7.9 for 1982; by 7.6 for 1983; by 7.3 for 1984; by 7.0 for 1985; by 6.7 for 1986; by 6.4 for 1987; by 6.1 for 1988; by 5.8 for 1989; by for 1990; by 5.2 for 1991; and by a factor of 2.9 for pensions awarded or reassessed in 1992.

In calculating the average monthly earnings for awarding a pension after 1 May 1992, sums reckoned as part of earnings are recalculated according to the coefficients indicated in section one of the present article corresponding to the year that they were paid (received). The average monthly earnings of citizens whose pensions were set in the period 1 January through 1 May 1992 are to be reassessed according to the same procedure, taking account of sums received before the beginning of 1992.

Article 8. The following amendments and additions are to be made to the RSFSR Law "On State Pensions in the RSFSR" (VEDOMOSTI SYEZDA NARODNYKH DEPUTATOV RSFSR I VERKHOVNOGO SOVETA RSFSR, 1990, No. 27, Article 351; 1991, No. 17, Article 508; 1991, No. 17, Article 509; 1992, No. 5. Article 179; 1992, No. 11, Article 531):

1. Article 7 is to read as follows:

"Article 7. Increasing Pensions in Connection With the Growth in the Cost of Living and the Increase in the Minimum Levels of Pensions

"Pensions are liable to indexation in connection with the rise in the cost of living according to the procedure established by the Law.

"If there is a centralized increase in the minimum pension all pensions are increased in proportion to the increase in their minimum levels."

2. The last paragraph of clause "b" of Article 12 of the Law is to be deleted. The period at the end of the preceding paragraph is to be replaced with a comma.

3. A fourth section is to be added to Article 103 with the following contents:

"The procedure for increasing earnings in connection with the increase in the cost of living and changes in the level of the nominal labor wage is laid down by the Law."

4. Article 130 of the Law, after the words "in the remaining part—from 1 January 1992," is to read as follows:

"In this connection, until 1 May 1992 pensions are paid in a sum not more than the minimum old-age pension stipulated by Article 17, Section One of the Law, not counting supplements to this sum."

5. Article 131, Section Two of the Law is to read as follows:

"A pension is recalculated according to documents in the pension file on the basis of the earnings on which the pension was calculated. The procedure for increasing earnings in connection with the increase in the cost of living and changes in the level of the nominal labor wage is established by the Law."

Article 9. The present law comes into force from 1 May 1992.

[Signed] President of the Russian Federation B. Yeltsin

Moscow, Russian House of Soviets

8 April 1992

No. 2654-1

Gorbachev on 'Possible Return to Power'

LD2304154192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Interview with Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev by Ye. Aleksandrova at Moscow airport on 23 April—recorded]

[Text] [Aleksandrova] There is intense media speculation concerning your statement on a possible return to power in a few years. We would like to hear it from the horse's mouth, for I know how the press sometimes deals with what is said.

[Gorbachev] I must say that I did say this, in reply to a question at the big meeting yesterday. In effect, I was asked what my plans are in the light of de Gaulle's return to active political life at the age of 68, as his biography says; is my return ruled out? In the first place, my response was that I am seven years younger and that is why I am not leaving the political arena. But to be serious, I further replied that I currently have no specific plans to enter anything, or to lay claims to, or to stand or participate in any sort of struggle for any sort of political post.

[Aleksandrova] Mikhail Sergeyevich said his main concern at present is the creation of his Fund. But, as he noted, everything is fluid, everything is changing. [video shows Gorbachev speaking, but faded out]

[Aleksandrova] And how do you appraise the policies of the current Russian leadership?

[Gorbachev] As concerns the general thrust of everything they are doing, I see no big divergences.

[Aleksandrova] From the policies you would have been pursuing?

[Gorbachev] Yes. Yes, yes, yes. This concerns also the economic sphere. We must move toward market relations by reforming property relations. This also concerns the political reforms. I also lent my support to the idea of presidential power, because at the stage of radical changes there is a need for an effectively functioning power. I think we must constantly remember—and in my view the Congress has shown it—what price has to be paid to achieve the goals we have set ourselves. There is here, you know, a threshold, as it were, that must not be crossed. [video shows Yakovlev and Raisa Gorbachev]

Quest for Presidential Post Eyed

PM2304143092 Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 23 Apr p 1

[M. Stoyanov report under "Power and Politics" rubric: "Gorbachev Leaves the Door Open"]

[Text] Just recently, former USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev has increasingly frequently been making it clear that he is not ruling out the possibility of returning to big-time politics. It is hard to say whether this idea is connected with the difficulties the present Russian leadership is experiencing or whether it is a hint that he should not be forgotten, in international circles anyway, as a "reserve alternative." As we know, half-tones have always been part of Gorbachev's political palette.

Nevertheless, in Japan, which he is at present visiting privately, and where, it is reported, he is being received better than he was as president, he stressed again that he does not intend to "hide in the Russian forests," although he believes that his return to the leading post will scarcely happen in the next three to five years.

Evidently in order to dispel doubts as to the realistic nature of such a prospect, Gorbachev mentioned that

Charles de Gaulle returned to power at the age of 68, whereas he is only 61 now. So time is still on his side.

The comparison with the former French president inevitably makes you ask yourself: Does this mean that Gorbachev intends in his own good time to do battle for the post of president, a question he has in every way tried to avoid answering? Or is he awaiting a turn of events that will enable him to repeat de Gaulle's political phenomonon before the next elections to the top post?

Socioeconomic Figures Show Further Slump

PM2404092492 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Apr 92 First Edition p 1

[ITAR-TASS report: "Goskomstat Reports"]

[Text] The first signs that the market mechanism is working are already starting to be seen in Russia, even though the process of implementing economic reform is proceeding with difficulty. This was stated in the Russian Goskomstat [State Committee for Statistics] report on the results of the Russian Federation's socioeconomic position in the first quarter of 1992.

It notes that the steps being taken to stabilize the economy, finances, and the money supply at the macro level are not being backed up by adequate measures in the production sphere and that this has resulted in a further slump in that area, a breakdown in economic ties, and a decline in export opportunities for these reasons. Measures to provide social protection for the population—particularly the less well-off sectors—have been slow off the mark.

The statisticians cite the economy's high degree of monopolization, the lack of competition, the sluggishness of production structures, the delay in privatization, and a certain loss of direction as being among the factors countering the progress of reform.

According to the Russian Goskomstat figures, in the first quarter there was a sharp reduction in production and purchases of livestock products. Compared with the first quarter of 1991, 503,000 tonnes less meat and 1,585,000 tonnes less milk were sold.

Enterprises were 780.3 billion rubles [R] behind in payments to the budget and to their suppliers as of 1 April. At the start of the year this indicator was 23 times lower.

Many enterprises are now experiencing an acute shortage of credit facilities, even though at the end of the first quarter total credit investment on Russian territory stood at R856.1 billion—90 percent up on the start of the year. The Goskomstat report stresses that the legal persons applying for loans are often those which had grown accustomed to the extensive and sometimes unjustifiable use of virtually cost-free funds.

Nonetheless, there have been positive changes: Demand is exerting an increasing influence on price dynamics, more goods are reaching the market, and—of particular importance—economic relationships are being switched to monetary regulators.

At the same time, national income produced in the Russian Federation fell by 14 percent compared with the first quarter of 1991.

Citing the main features of this year's first quarter results, the Goskomstat states that total industrial output fell by 13 percent compared with the same period last year, and there was a decline in output in all sectors. The situation is particularly serious in oil extraction, ferrous metallurgy, machine building, and the food industry.

Sadly, it is a fact that construction workers are finding things harder and harder. Thus, in the first three months of the year the decline in the amount of housing and civilian buildings under construction continued. Only 66,000 families received new apartments, as against 98,000 in January-March last year. A total of 4.1 million square meters of housing was commissioned from all sources of financing—69 percent of the figure for the first quarter of 1991.

As for Russians' living standards, the Goskomstat recorded—against the backdrop of multiple rises in prices and charges, and on the basis of figures from a survey into family budgets—a per capita income of more than R1,200 a month. But more than 50 million people—one-third of Russia's population—had incomes of less than R900 a month.

The consumer price index for Russia as a whole in the first quarter of 1992 stood at 619 percent compared with December 1991. The consumer price index is calculated using statistics obtained as a result of monitoring retail price changes in state, cooperative, and private trade, and in the services sphere on the basis of the actual pattern of consumption over the previous year in the Russian Federation for a fixed selection of basic consumer goods and services.

Breakup of Economic Ties Viewed

LD2304173692 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] The Russian State Statistics Committee concluded that the breaking of economic ties is the main cause of the drop in production in the republic. It is reported that only 61 percent of the output planned for delivery in 1992 is covered by contracts, whereas for same period last year this figure was 87 percent. The situation for the conclusion of contracts for material resources delivery is even more critical. Less than half of the number needed by the republican enterprises have been made.

'Positive Advances' Eyed

LD2304122492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0939 GMT 23 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 23 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—The Russian economy is going through a very serious crisis. Although the first signs have appeared that the market mechanism is making progress, the process of implementing economic reform is proceeding with some difficulty. This is demonstrated by the Russian State Statistics Committee report on the results of the socio-economic situation in the Russian Federation in the first quarter of 1992.

The national income produced in the Russian Federation fell by 14 percent compared with the first quarter of 1991. The volume of industrial production dropped by 13 percent. What is more, output has dropped in all areas.

The situation is particularly grave in the energy industry. For example, the volume of oil and gas condensate extracted has fallen by 15 million tonnes. Coal output, which was over 92 million tonnes, fell by 1 percent. Enterprises of the gas industry are continuing to function stabley, supplying consumers with 1.67 billion cubic meters of fuel.

Strikes, in which employees of 576 institutions and organizations in 35 regions of the country took part, have become a real scourge for the economy. More than 260,000 man-days of working time was lost.

Due to the fall in production over the first three months, the number of unemployed has risen from 70,000 to 118,000, and an additional 500,000 people will be made redundant over the next three months.

The shortage of foodstuffs is becoming increasingly tangible. According to State Statistics Committee figures, the production and procurement of livestock production dropped sharply in the first quarter; 503,000 tonnes less meat and 1,585,000 tonnes less milk was sold than in the first quarter of 1991. Stocks are now a third down on a year ago because of the shortage of feed, and farms are being forced to cut the number of livestock. The number of large-horned cattle has dropped by 6 percent, pigs by 14 percent, and poultry by 8 percent.

In the first quarter, more than 50 million people—one third of the population of Russia—had an income of less than 900 rubles per month. At the same time, research into family budgets showed that average monetary income per head was more than 1,200 rubles per month.

The State Statistics Committee considers that the government's steps to stabilize the economy, finances, and money supply at macro level have not been backed up by appropriate measures in the realm of production. As a result, there has been a breakdown in economic ties and a consequent decline in export opportunities. There has been some delay in the application of social welfare measures designed to benefit the public, particularly the less well-off.

Statisticians consider that the factors obstructing the progress of reform include: the high degree of monopoly in the economy, the lack of competition, the cumbersome nature of industrial structures, the long drawn out processes of privatization, a certain loss of administrative control, and a decline in discipline and order in industry.

Nevertheless, in the opinion of the State Statistics Committee there have been positive advances. Demand is having an increasing effect on prices, the market is filling with goods, and economic relations are becoming based on monetary regulators.

Decline in Living Standards Reported

LD2304123392 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 0700 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] The consequences of price increases in Russia in the period of its transition to a market have proved more dramatic than the government previously believed. As its statistics service reports, living standards have gone down by 40 percent since last January, when food and consumer goods prices were freed; 39 million people, or every fourth resident of Russia, now lives below the poverty line.

On learning the figures the government has decided to release wages and salaries in the private sector and to nearly double them in the state sector. Besides, pensions and other social benefits are to be raised in the country substantially beginning next month.

Economic Condition of Food Industry Worsens

OW2404003192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1514 GMT 23 Apr 92

[From the "INTERFAX Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The deepening crisis in Russia's food-processing industry may further cut back the proportion of this year's harvest that reaches consumers.

The industry's rate of contraction is nearing 25% and its financial situation can only be described as catastrophic.

MOST ENTERPRISES NEED IMMEDIATE MODERNIZATION. Having been subjected to decades of insufficient government investment, the food processing industry is now one of the weakest links in the Russian food supply network. Since the 1970s, captial investment in this sector has not exceeded 3.5 kopeks per ruble worth of output, while in the United States, for example, investment in food processing averaged 22 cents per dollar of output during this period.

Neglect of the food processing industry has reached a point where one-fourth of farm production is wasted (mainly due to the inadequate capacity of processing facilities), 60% of equipment is more than half worn out, one third of the refrigeration units are damaged, and the overwhelming majority of enterprises lack modern facilities.

Last year food processing enterprises received less than half of the equipment they required, and the ratio of equipment renewal fell to 2.5%. Furthermore, there was a sharp drop in purchases of replacement parts for imported machinery—despite the fact that 60-70% of confectionery, tobacco, and cooking oil factories are equipped with imported machinery, mainly East European). [no open parentheses as received]

SECTOR ON THE VERGE OF BANKRUPTCY. The productivity of the food industry grew steadily until 1988-89. 1990 saw a nominal decline in productivity, in the following year, the output of processed food in Russia fell 11% (in comparison to 1990). For the first quarter of 1992, the rate of decline neared 25% (relative to 1991 levels).

Food processing enterprises, which had been unable to produce to capacity because of shortfalls in supplies of farm products, a breakdown in economic links, and cutbacks in imports, suddenly ran into a completely new problem after the January 2nd price liberalization—the money at the disposal of consumers to purchase foodstuffs suffered a 50% drop. Stores began to order less and pay late, leaving food-processing enterprises without funds to purchase raw materials and equipment or to pay workers. In January, stocks of unsold meat doubled, while stocks of butter increased by 50%.

Despite the prevalence of food shortages throughout the country, this oversupply of processed foodstuffs was brought about not only by a decline in consumers' ability to purchase. It also stemmed from the inflexibility of a monopolistic system of retailing, unadapted to market conditions, and from still-entrenched administrative obstacles.

An example: although Moscow's Koloss Association is unable to sell all of its frozen potatoes within the city limits, local authorities outside of Moscow (where virtually no frozen potatoes are produced) nevertheless prohibit their import. Koloss is therefore forced to cut back on production.

Moreover, many producers are completely dependent on a limited number of state wholesale buyers and have no alternative sales outlets.

EMERGENCY MEASURES PLANNED. The Committee on the Food Processing Industry has been designated as the main government policy-making body in this sector. The Committee, which is under the authority of the Ministry of Agriculture, began work in March 1992.

Its directors point out that the Committee's priorities are to institute large-scale privatization of small and medium food processing enterprises and to work out an effective mechanism for cooperation between agriculture, food processing and retailing. It will also encourage the establishment of modern processing facilities as near as possible to raw material producing areas, and will strive to increase the output of food processing equipment at factories that are undergoing conversion.

The Committee's experts believe that, under current circumstances, the food processing industry will not be able to survive without the government providing it with loans on favorable terms and investing in modernizing its technology.

The privatization schedule calls for 2,170 food industry enterprises (60% of the total) to be transferred to private hands in 1992. However, to date, employees have bought out only 130 plants in Russia, with another 150 enterprises due to be privatized in the very near future.

Slated for obligatory privatization in 1992 are mainly plants which carry out the first stages of processing farm produce, as well as any enterprise with less than 200 employees. Plants producing sugar, cooking oil, salt, baby food, and tobacco products will be the last to be sold into private hands.

GOVERNMENT COUNTING ON FOREIGN INVESTMENT. Only 3% of Russian joint ventures are involved in the food-processing industry. Experts from the Committee believe that the creation of even a small number of joint ventures could raise the technological level of the industry and act as catalysts of progress.

Industry managers have prepared concrete proposals for collaboration to be submitted to western firms. For example, since Russia produces only 15% of the citric acid it needs, a citric acid plant would be a sensible investment, as would a plant to bottle mineral water. For the Russian side, the best way to pay for equipment and technology provided by the western partner would be in finished production.

The Committee also is trying to attract western firms to participate in sugar production, for instance, by providing modern equipment to process raw cane ugar at factories in Tula and Moscow.

Food Prices Up; Staples in Short Supply

OW2404033992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1852 GMT 23 Apr 92

[From "Trade & Investment"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Since mid-March food prices, which remained relatively stable during February, have constantly risen.

In the first week of April, meat prices rose on average by 6.6%, milk by 16.5%, bread by 13.3% and vegetable oil by about 20%. Prices are continuing to grow.

In March and the beginning of April, food prices rose due to the expectation that energy product prices would

be freed. In some cities consumer demand almost matched the point of panic buying. The public attempted to stock up on goods, and store shelves which had been relatively full since 2 January were bare once again.

A survey by Russia's Goskomstat shows that meat is not available in stores in ⅓ of all cities, and that in half of all cities bread is not available.

The survey points out that it is almost impossible to buy fish in any state store. It is possible to find these products in urban farmers' markets, where prices are significantly higher than in stores. At the same time, in 6% of cities neither state stores nor farmer's markets had meat, and in 39% there was no garlic and in 7% no onions.

In state stores, as a rule, there is a relatively narrow selection of food products: eggs, sour cream, potatoes, and rarely milk. Every once in a while sausages, vegetable oil, butter, yoghurt and cabbage are available. It is almost impossible to buy sugar, cottage cheese, macaroni and groats.

Shortages of such foodstuffs are due to deepening disruptions of inter-republican and inter-regional ties, breaches of contract between wholesalers and retailers, and a dangerous drop in the food industry's productivity. More and more food is changing hands through barter deals, bypassing the retail sector.

According to experts, the continuing growth in prices is on the one hand the result of the agrarian sector's rising costs for material-technical resources (fuel, technology, fertilizer), and on the other hand the rise in personal wages. Prices in state stores and at city markets, where peasants and small intermediary brokers sell, are growing closer and closer.

Experts from Russia's Ministry of Agriculture are paying attention to the significant disparity of prices for the same product in different cities. Regions which have better developed transportation networks, which supply the market with essential raw material resources or have a decent number of enterprises producing marketable goods on their territory, are in a better position.

In this manner, retail prices for meat, poultry and dairy products in Yakutsk (Yakutia, North Eastern Siberia) are significantly lower than in most other cities, despite unfavorable conditions for agriculture and the city's distance from the country's center. Yakutia however, has the opportunity to do barter deals effectively through sales of diamonds, gold, furs, coal, oil and timber.

Future Trade, Investment Plans Reported

OW2404023892

[Editorial Report] The following reviews selected reports contained in the "Trade & Investment" feature transmitted by Moscow INTERFAX in English at 1852 GMT on 23 April.

Supreme Soviet To Examine Investment Agreement With United States

The Supreme Soviet will soon begin to consider ratification of a bilateral agreement between the United States and Russia, signed in early April, designed to guarantee security for U.S. investments. The national parliament "has so far never had to deal with a document so full of technicalities, but this is likely to be the only difficulty" in the ratification process. The document, which provides guarantees against nationalization, civil unrest, and possible ruble devaluation, has sparked interest among "several hundred" American companies whose investments might reach $7 billion. According to Leonid Grigoryev, chairman of the Foreign Investment Committee, "this figure does not represent the amount which American corporations are prepared to invest immediately, but should rather be seen as an indication of their intentions. Indeed the very procedure for obtaining guarantees requires that applications should be filed in good time."

Foreign Economic Activity Yields Lower Revenues Than Expected

Despite initial government budget projections that 200 billion [bn] rubles would be received as income in the first quarter of 1992, it has become "clear that it would not be possible to collect the planned sum." The revenues were to have been generated primarily from exports customs paid by the exporter in European currency units. "For the past five months...the republican budget received 309 bn rubles less than expected. 185 bn rubles of this was lost through privileges to exporters paying lower tariffs, and 124 bn rubles worth was lost since some barter operations to import grain were done without paying customs duties." The government's Working Center for Economic Reforms reports "that budget revenues from export duties in the first quarter of 1992 totalled 29 bn rubles, while total budget revenues from all taxes levied came to 220 bn rubles. In January the budget received 1.6 bn rubles, in February 4 bn rubles, and in March 14.5 bn rubles in revenues from foreign economic activity."

Ministry Sets Free Trade of Export Certificates

The Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations has decided that "an export certificate plus a contract for delivery of goods and certificate of origin" will be the documents required to obtain an export license. The ministry will also allow free trading in certificates via exchanges and via tenders organized by the ministry. "Any firms registered in Russia, including wholly foreign-owned firms, may bid for certificates."

Supreme Soviet

Khasbulatov Comments on Congress Results

LD2304144192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1308 GMT 23 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Alexey Tabachnikov]

[Text] Moscow April 23 TASS—Ruslan Khasbulatov is dissatisfied with the results of the 6th Congress of People's Deputies of Russia, which ended here the other day. Opening a meeting of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet today, he said: "There were no losers or winners, but the entire society has suffered, and a wound has been inflicted on our entire administration".

The parliament speaker especially noted the "exceptionally positive character" of the president's rounding off speech at the Congress. He expressed regret that it was not delivered at the opening of the Congress because, he believes, it could set the right tune to the Congress. He particularly pinpointed Yeltsin's words about the need to have a strong executive and legislative arms, which should cooperate with each other. "If the ideas, contained in the president's speech are implemented, the government may expect to get the parliament's backing and protection," he said.

Khasbulatov expressed the view that it was necessary, probably already now, to begin preparing for the next congress, devoted solely to the new Russian constitution. However, he believes, "public opinion should be sounded out" before next autumn in order to decide whether to approve the constitution at the congress or by means of a referendum. The speaker believes it is necessary to start work among deputies to prepare the ground for going over to the organs of power, envisaged by the new constitution.

Draft Laws on Defense, Psychiatry Examined

LD2304153192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1259 GMT 23 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Galina Vinitskaya]

[Text] Moscow, 23 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—The creation of the smallest Russian armed forces necessary is envisaged by the draft law "On Defense," which was examined at today's session of the Russian Federation's Supreme Soviet Presidium.

The draft law defines the basis of the state's defense; the authorities of state bodies and the responsibilities of enterprises, establishments, organizations, officials, and citizens in the sphere of defense; measures for its economic protection; the structure and organization of the Russian armed forces; and liability for violation of the legislation. The presidium decided to pass the draft bill to the parliamentary committees and commissions for examination.

The Russian president presented the draft law "On Bankruptcy" to the presidium. It defines the conditions and procedure for the enforced or voluntary liquidation of insolvent enterprises if the implementation of measures for their financial revival is economically unadvisable or if they have not produced any positive result. At the same time, particular attention is devoted to preventing or lessening the negative consequences of enterprises' inability to pay their creditors in conditions of market relations where there is a variety of forms of ownership.

The presidium also examined a draft law "On Psychiatric Help and the Rights of Citizens in this Respect." For the first time in the history of Russian legislation, juridical procedures are being introduced with the aim of protecting citizens from unjustified intrusion by psychiatrists into their lives when psychiatric help is given. A procurator's authorization is required for compulsory initial psychiatric certification, and a court decision is required before an individual can be placed in a psychiatric hospital without his consent, and for such hospitalization to be extended.

Draft Resolution Abolishes Bank Decisions

OW2304154592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1431 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A draft resolution of the Presidium of the Russian Supreme Soviet was prepared, which makes several articles of March 11 Governmental Resolution "On stock investment-commercial Industrial-Building Bank" and April 2 Governmental Resolution "Issues of the Russian Republican Agricultural Bank" invalid, the Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Soviet Committee on plans, budget, taxes, prices, and banks Valeri Skripchenko told in his interview with "IF" [INTERFAX].

He explained that the leadership of the Parliament intends to disavow all the points of the governmental resolution which contradict the earlier adopted decisions of the Supreme Soviet. According to Skripchenko, autumn last year property, assets, and liabilities of the Union Banks were transferred to the Central Rank of Russia subordinate to the Supreme Soviet. Skripchenko underlined that by these resolutions the Goverment plans to formulate an investment fund on the assets of the Industrail-Building Bank, equal to 10 billions roubles, and more than 2 billions will be allocated to the statutory fund of the Agricultural Bank. The Government has also decided to allocate 500 millions roubles as the state's share in the authorized capital of the IBB for formation of the reserve fund and 538 millions for formation of the statutory fund. He says that these and several other resolutions of the Government are a crude intrusion in the Central Bank activity, which is not under control of the executive power.

Experts Examine Defense Conversion Law

OW2404032492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1852 GMT 23 Apr 92

[From "Trade & Investment"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's Supreme Soviet adopted "The Law on Conversion of the Defence Industry in the Russian Federation" in the first reading at the end of March. Section 4 of the law defines the principles of external economic activities of defence enterprises in the course of conversion.

Article 9. Types of external economic activities

Enterprises being converted to civilian production may, according to the procedures defined by the legislation of the Russian Federation, take part in external economic activities in compliance with their charters, certificates evidencing their right to take part in external economic activities, and the registration card of a participant in external economic activities.

Enterprises may engage in the following activities:

—export of raw materials and equipment which become idle in the course of conversion of military production, provided it is impossible to use them for production of civilian goods;

—import of new technologies and equipment, as well as components for production of civilian goods;

—transfer (exchange) and sale of technologies, licences, know-how, and scientific and technological information, which were used for the creation of weapons and other military materiel prior to conversion;

—creation of joint ventures with foreign firms to produce civilian goods or provide services using the material and human resources which become idle in the course of conversion;

—receipt of external loans against the security of their assets, creation of joint stock companies and small enterprises (according to the Russian Federation's law "On Foreign Investment");

—participation in exhibitions, conferences, workshops, trade fairs, etc. with the aim of demonstrating new materials, equipment and instruments, and presenting the technologies which were earlier used in the production of weapons and military materiel;

—joint R&D with foreign firms and other joint external economic activities.

Article 10. Protection of the military-economic, scientific and technological potential of the Russian Federation.

1. With the objective of preventing damage to the military-economic, scientific and technological potential of the Russian Federation and of ensuring nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction, enterprises shall, in the conduct of external economic activities provided for in Article 9 of the present Law, strictly adhere to the restrictions on the export (transfer, exchange) of products and technologies which are used for peaceful purposes, but may be used for the creation of weapons of mass destruction. The procedure for imposing restrictions on the export (transfer, exchange) of the aforegoing products and technologies shall be defined by the Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation.

2. In the conduct of external economic activities provided for in Article 9 of the present Law, enterprises shall be guided by the following provisions: the export of strategic categories of raw materials and equipment shall be conducted in accordance with procedures defined by the Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation on a case-by-case basis for specific licences issued by the Licensing Committee of the Russian Federation;

—the transfer of technologies and scientific and technological information with the aim of launching production of civilian products or for use in trade and scientific links with foreign firms shall be carried out in compliance with the requirements of documents setting out measures protecting the military-economic interests of the Russian Federation;

—the export of weapons and military materiel, as well as special systems, units, and assemblies that form part of weapons and military materiel or relate to the technologies of their production shall follow procedures defined by the proper state body.

The law, which has been adopted in the first reading, proclaims the right of defence-related enterprises to engage in external economic activities, which is in effect a recognition of an already accomplished fact: out of the country's approximately 600 defence enterprises 200 have already begun to cooperate with western firms.

Russian military enterprises do not experience a lack of interest from foreign partners. Thus, the American corporation Battery March, which specializes in large investment projects, has said it is prepared to contribute up to $1bn [billion] towards a conversion fund that would be used to finance conversion at 20 enterprises. So far, however, cooperation has not gone beyond getting acquainted with partners and exchanging protocols of intention.

Having come much too late, the draft law provides little encouragement for "intentions" to turn into specific projects. The law does not state clearly who takes decisions about the external economic aspects of conversion. The references to the Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation which, according to a resolution of the Sixth Congress of People's Deputies, will not be formed until December are hardly illuminating.

There is little doubt that a regulatory framework for integrating the country's defence industries into its system of external economic links in 1992 will be put in place in the nearest future by presidential decrees. One of such decrees—on the creation of Exportcontrol—has already been issued (see T&I No. 15). Work is now in

progress on a presidential decree "On Urgent Measures to Implement Conversion of the Defence Industry in 1992".

After a final version of the Law on Conversion is adopted, the parliament will proceed to debate a draft of the Law on National Secrets in the second quarter and the Law on the Defence Program, Defence Orders and the Status of Defence Enterprises in the third quarter.

One obstacle to an inflow of foreign investments into Russia's defence industry is that there are no state conversion programs which will not be submitted to the Supreme Soviet before July. The reason why these programs have been so late in coming is that Russia has so far failed to establish its military doctrine, without which not a single Russian official may say with any degree of certainty which defence enterprises or which shops of defence enterprises may be declassified and which should remain out of bounds.

This same uncertainty prevents managers of defence enterprises from creating joint ventures even in those production areas which are idle because there are no longer any defence orders. These managers are therefore insisting that the final version of the Law on Conversion should include a provision under which the shops of defence enterprises that turn out civilian products or do not have any more defence orders would be automatically given the right to split off and operate as an independent economic entity.

Regional Affairs

Health Workers Strike, Picket in Moscow

LD2404104592 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0700 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] The medical trade union of Russia is picketing the government building in Staraya Ploshchad in Moscow today. About 70,000 people are taking part in the all-Russia protest action. Galina Orlova, the secretary of the Central Committee of the Health Workers Trade Union, disclosed this to the RIA correspondent. The Moscow medical workers plan to join them on 27 April. Almost 500 workplaces have resorted to an extreme measure—a strike. Strikes have started in St. Petersburg and Smolensk. In Chelyabinsk 40 medical establishments are on strike, in Udmurtiya 80, in North Ossetia 20. In Moscow the ambulance workers are threatening to stop work. The medical workers demand that the authorities improve the financing of public health and raise salaries.

Proceeds of Foreign Aid to Moscow Eyed

PM2404102492 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Apr 92 p 2

[Olga Plakhotnikova report under the rubric "Scandal": "He Who Dares Gets the Food"]

[Text] The article "Who Could Have Eaten So Much Food?" (ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, 29 January) was about the strange adventures of the humanitarian aid which arrived in Moscow between January and November of last year from the reserves of the West Berlin Senate and the Bundeswehr.

"Business Moscow-style" resulted in a situation whereby 250 million kg of food brought in only 47 million rubles [R] to the Social Protection Fund (this is the fund which receives money from the sale of humanitarian aid). Unfortunately only Moscow City Soviet responded to our item. All the other organizations concerned maintained a bashful silence.

There is a document in the editorial office compiled from the results of an investigation carried out by deputies. It confirms that the cargoes from Germany really did go to the Moscow trade organizations and food industry enterprises: that is, the Moscow City Soviet trade department, the wholesale associations trading in canned goods and groceries, the Moscow city branch of "Rosmyasomoltorg," the Moscow Food Combine, and so on. The deputies managed to trace the route of 56 million out of the 250 million kg. The sum received from their sale is assessed at R278 million. But the total volume of humanitarian aid from Germany at last year's prices amounts to 1.9 billion "worthless" rubles, no more no less.

The deputies came to the conclusion that the mysterious disappearance of sums amounting to many millions may bear witness either to a complete lack of monitoring on the part of the city's administration of the way commerce "deals" with humanitarian aid, or to large-scale intrigues during the formation of financial resources for the social protection of the most needy people.

The Little Soviet adopted a decision 15 April "On Financial Resources Received From the Sale of Humanitarian Aid From the Strategic Reserves of the West Berlin Senate and the Bundeswehr." The city administration was instructed to report on how the 15 January 1991 resolution "On the Procedure for Accounting for the Goods Received in Moscow City as Foreign Humanitarian Aid," signed by Yu. Luzhkov, is being implemented, and within a month to transfer the money received from sales (taking account of inflation) to the Social Protection Fund. The Little Soviet intends to appeal to the Russian Prosecutor's Office and the Russian Control and Auditing Administration in order that professionals can get to the bottom of this shady affair.

Tatar Chief Reviews 'Associated' State Status

LD2304140492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1042 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Moscow April 23 TASS—Tatarstan and Russia have to find a "corresponding formula" for their relations. "Tatarstan is a sovereign state which is associated with Russia on the basis of agreements", Tatar President

Mintimer Shaimiyev said, proposing his variant of relations in an interview with the "MOSCOW NEWS" weekly.

"This flexible formula allows the situation to develop naturally and does not violate Russian territorial integrity", Shaimiyev said. "If this provision was included into the preamble of the constitution it would suit the majority", he added.

Tatarstan and Checheniya were the only two republics which refused to sign the Russian Federative Treaty. Although Shaimiyev believes the treaty "is a positive phenomenon", as it settled the relations between the majority of the Russian republics and the centre, Tatarstan "adheres to a different approach" and believes it should maintain "relations by agreements" with Russia, the president stressed.

Tatarstan To Open Missions to CIS, Others

LD2304194292 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1800 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Tartarstan, a republic within Russia, is going to open its missions in all CIS member states and abroad. This intention has been declared by President Mintimer Shaymiyev in a special decree. The president says his decree is aimed at fostering Tartarstan's sovereignty and its economic, political and cultural ties with all the countries concerned.

Shaymiyev Establishes Republican TV Company

LD2304204792 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0400 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Tatarstan President Shaymiyev has signed a decree on creating a television and radio company for the republic. Previously, the state committee for television and radio broadcasting was subordinate to Russia and was financed by it. From now on the television and radio company in Kazan will be subsidised from the Tatarstan budget. Broadcasts, as previously, will be in Tatar and Russian in approximately equal amounts in accordance with the ethnic make-up of the republic's population.

Abdulatipov Meets With Buryatia Officials

LD2404102292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] The time has come for amendments to be made to the Russian Government's foreign policy which has, of late, been directed onesidedly at the West. This was stated today by Ramazan Abdulatipov, chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, at a meeting with members of the parliament and government of Buryatia and representatives of the public. We should not, he said, forget our old friends in the Asian region. The delegation of Russian MPs [members of parliament] headed by Abdulatipov leaves for Moscow tomorrow.

Former Chechen Deputy Justice Minister Arrested

OW2304131492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0958 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The former Deputy Minister of Justice of Checheno-Ingushetiya and deputy department chief of the Chechen-Ingush regional committee of the CPSU Vladimir Gorodov was arrested in Groznyy by Chechen law enforcement officers on Tuesday.

Eight units of firearms, 10,000 submachine gun cartridges, a cartridge belt, a grenade, 5 portable radio stations [as received], signal pistols, smoke boxes, side arms, sighting devices and explosive packages were discovered in his home. Blank forms of licences for the possession of firearms were also found.

Explosion at Tomsk-7 Complex Reported

OW2304170192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1613 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] There was an explosion of liquid nitrogen at a chemical plant in the restricted town of Tomsk-7. One person died and two were rushed to hospital. The chemical plant is part of the defence complex. It produces nuclear fuel. The management has asked local residents to stay calm saying there was no radiation leaks.

Chelyabinsk Defense Conversion Issues Noted

PM2404103592 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1200 GMT 16 Apr 92

[From the "Urals TV" program, broadcast in the "Transrosefir" series: Video report by Lyudmila Shesterkina and Sergey Gordiyenko]

[Text] [Shesterkina] [video shows unfinished construction in snow-covered area] Now some news on the progress of conversion. On numerous occasions already we have stated that this process is a blessing in itself. But the time has come to point out exactly where the blessings which are supposed to ensue from this process are. These pictures were shot at the testing ground of the ChTZ [Chelyabinsk Tractor Plant] Production Association named for Lenin. But similar sights could be found in Izhevsk, no doubt also in Yekaterinburg, and probably in Perm and in Orenburg—any place, as the defense industry in the Urals was always prominent. Another military hardware production unit—a major one if this steel structure is anything to go by—was not completed, thank God! Construction was simply discontinued. But it is difficult to say how and when these metal structures will be adapted to the new peaceful ideas, although millions of rubles have gone into them.

This is the subsidiary heavy-duty tractor plant. Now, instead of military hardware, they are making bulldozers, timber-processing machines, and mini-tractors. Wonderful! But these workshops are simply too big, and it is not easy to adapt the powerful equipment to such production.

[V.S. Pozdeyev, director of the subsidiary heavy-duty tractor plant] It is almost an insult for a plant which throughout its existence has boasted a high degree of skill and which is capable of undertaking more important projects which would be more advantageous for the national economy than what we are doing now.

[Shesterkina] For former tank technicians, this equipment is kid stuff. Almost 3,000 highly-skilled specialists were unable to reconcile themselves to such simple work and left. Those that remain console themselves with the fact that mini-tractors are vital for agriculture. They are compact and versatile—it is possible to have almost two dozen attachable appliances—cultivators, drills, plows. Show me the farmer who does not dream of such a machine! And these vehicle trailers would suit any truck gardener. Up to now, production is still ridiculously low. The fact is that it is easy to stop producing something, but not so easy to initiate new production, especially in our current economic situation.

[V.M. Platonov, economic manager at the Chelyabinsk Tractor Plant Production Association Named for Lenin] In our association, military hardware production occupied only a small part of the business—around 10-12 percent. It is a complex problem for the whole of the national economy. On the one hand, of course, halting production of hardware which was developed over many years and in which the labor of engineers, technicians, workers was invested—it is very painful to give it up, it is very difficult. So for many of us it was a personal tragedy. The greatest problem lies in the simplistic approach to conversion at all levels—from the government to our own association. Originally it was suggested that halting arms production was a great blessing in itself, which would generate great savings. The reality has turned out to be very different. Before you can change production technology, it is necessary first to invest—that is, to pump in a specific sum of money. But the country did not have, and indeed still does not have this kind of money.

[Shesterkina] For the time being, you can see for yourselves just how much almost-finished equipment is accumulating in the workshops. There are not enough shock absorbers, headlights, or some other minor element—there is always something missing! Forty one enterprises are meant to supply component parts. But they do this with great difficulty, still resorting to the barter system. I will remind you that recently the director of a Perm plant, having started producing fuel-powered saws, became exasperated with the barter system and called the whole situation anarchic. His sentiments would be echoed at any one of the former military production units in the Urals. As would these words from Valeriy Semyonovich Pozdeyev.

[Pozdeyev] Alas, the conversion program cannot really be said to exist at all. There are recommendations from regional administrations of the old State Planning Committee regarding conversion, but there are no legislative acts. But in today's situation, we cannot get by without real directives on guaranteeing supplies for production facilities in the national economy, for example, which undertake conversion. What we need is a systematic, specific program supported by the Russian Government. [video focuses on a tractor]

International Affairs

Morozov Signs Nuclear Withdrawal 'Timetable'

LD2304201792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 23 Apr 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] If everything is now distinct and clear regarding the ground forces and the Russian Army, the issue of the Fleet still raises many questions. The Ukrainian and the Russian defense ministers have expressed their views on its future in Kiev and Moscow today.

[Correspondent Lyaskalo, identified by caption] Colonel General Morozov, the Ukrainian defense minister, has described his official visit to the United States as very successful. His meetings and talks with leaders of the U.S. military and foreign policy departments were fruitful, he said. I am convinced, Konstantin Morozov said, that Ukraine is now being perceived as an independent and self-reliant state and as a guarantor of stability in Eastern Europe. Its firm policy of total nuclear disarmament can serve as a good example for other nuclear powers. The minister told the correspondents that right after his return from the United States on 21 April he signed a timetable for continuing the withdrawal of tactical nuclear weapons from Ukrainian territory under international supervision. This class of weapons includes the nuclear warheads that have already been removed from the warships of the Black Sea Fleet.

Denies Sale of Weapons

LD2304151392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1256 GMT 23 Apr 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Nikolay Zayka - for TASS]

[Text] Kiev April 23 TASS—Ukraine has not sold a single gun, a single armed production technology to anyone to date, although the republic sorely needs funds and received many proposals of this kind, said Ukrainian Defence Minister Konstantin Morozov. "But we address this issue in accordance with the political course of Ukraine and other states," Morozov said.

The lieutenant-colonel commented on Wednesday's [22 April] report by the Greek newspaper KATHIMERINI which alleged, referring to Greek security services, that large batches of armaments were supplied to Yugoslavia and Albania from several former Union republics, including Ukraine.

Counterintelligence Halts Equipment Transfer

LD2304132192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 0800 GMT 23 Apr 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The Ukrainian defense minister, who has returned from a visit to the United States, held a news conference yesterday at which he said that Ukraine is ready to meet all obligations under the agreement on strategic offensive weapons limitation and to accede to the nuclear nonproliferation treaty.

According to an IMMAPRESS agency report from Kharkov Oblast, however, Ukrainian military counterintelligence, recently set up on Leonid Kravchuk's instructions, is busy preventing the military from removing strategic cargoes from Ukraine. It recently intercepted several dozen Ural motor vehicles and oil tankers, as well as strategic goods, such as 2,500 sets of new uniforms.

President Reiterates Nuclear-Free Status Vow

OW2304234792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1630 GMT 23 Apr 92

[From "Presidential Bulletin"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Wednesday [22 April] President Leonid Kravchuk was decorated with a medal of ICS corporation honoring the destruction of US and Soviet medium-range missiles. Medal No. 31 was handed in Kiev by the president of the company Richard Siles.

A total of 900 medals were made in December 1987 at the Moscow mint from the metal of destroyed missiles at orders from ICS. They are meant for statesmen and politicians who have made a special contribution to nuclear disarmament.

At the ceremony President Kravchuk said that Ukraine firmly observes the status of a peaceful nuclear-free state and stressed that it "invites all businessmen who would want to be truly involved in the advancement of its economy".

Richard Siles who has made many business visits to Ukraine said that in his opinion the independent country has a good economic future and its opening to the world will promote its transformation into an economic power.

Ministry Spokesman Confirms Goal

LD2304204392 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 2100 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Ukraine has proclaimed its dedication to the idea of becoming a nuclear-free, nonaligned, and, in perspective, a neutral state. This was declared at the meeting with journalists by the spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of Ukraine Volodymyr (?Lapinskyy) commenting on the results of our republic's participation in the meeting of the countries, members of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, which was held in Helsinki. Volodymyr (?Lapinskyy) said that the Ukranian delegation became the co-author of the proposal on

undertaking peacekeeping operations within the framework of the Conference of Security and Cooperation in Europe as an effective instrument.

Border Guards To Be Recalled From 'Hot Spots'

LD2304172592 Kiev UKRINFORM Diplomatic Information Service in Russian 1816 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Border guards who are citizens of Ukraine will be recalled from hot spots of the Caucasus. The press service of the Ukraine border guards reports that at the present time approximately 4,000 border guards from Ukraine are serving in the Caucasus. In accordance with a decree by Ukraine President Leonid Kravchuk, dated 24 March 1992, servicemen who are citizens of Ukraine serving in military units located on the territory of Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Moldova, will all be transferred to the motherland to undergo military service.

The Ukraine State Committee on State Border Security Issues has prepared and sent to the Committee on the Defense of the State Border (Moscow) a draft of a bilateral agreement on the mechanism of transferring the officer corps , NCO's, warrant officers, extended term regulars, privates, and sergeants, on further military service in the state whose citizenship they possess, and also on the procedure for transferring them to the reserve. This document also contains proposals on the training of the officer corps and of younger specialists for the border guards of parties to the agreement.

Taking into account the situation which has arisen in Azerbaijan and Armenia compulsory service soldiers will be transferred to Ukraine by 20 May 1992. With regard to officers and NCO's, warrant officers, and extended term regulars, their return to the native land will take place individually in 1992-1993, on the basis of a request by the State Committee on Ukraine Borders.

The command of the Ukraine border guards expresses the hope that little time is needed for the signing of the agreement in question.

Ukraine Opposes Foreign Participation Dniester

OW2404132892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1246 GMT 24 Apr 92

[From "Diplomatic Panorama"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Leonid Kravchuk of Ukraine signed a directive on holding talks with Moldova on frontier regime. In accordance with it a delegation has been formed. It includes officials from Ukraine's Foreign Ministry and State Committee on border protection.

Ukraine is against the participation of foreign citizens in the conflict in the Dniester region, said Foreign Ministry spokesman Vladimir Furkalov at a briefing in Kiev on Thursday [23 April]. Such participation, he said, can only aggravate the situation in the Dniester region.

Judging by what V. Furkalov said, Kiev objects not only to the presence of the 14th Army placed by President B. Yeltsin under Russia's jurisdiction, but also to that of Ukrainian citizens in the Dniester region. "The participation of Ukrainian citizens in the conflict has not been sanctioned by Ukrainian authorities. They can be brought to account in accordance with Ukrainian legislation", the Foreign Ministry spokesman pointed out.

Spanish Foreign Minister on Official Visit

Meets With Kravchuk, Zlenko

LD2304192392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1730 GMT 23 Apr 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondents Anatoliy Grigoriyev and Aleksey Petrunya for TASS]

[Text] Kiev April 23 TASS—Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez, who arrived in Ukraine today for an official visit, has described his meetings in Kiev as fruitful.

The guest was received by President Leonid Kravchuk of Ukraine. The establishment and development of bilateral relations between Ukraine and Spain was spoken of during the meeting, according to official sources. Some matters of international life were also touched upon. Much attention was devoted to the development of economic cooperation.

It was pointed out in particular that Spain was prepared to open a credit line. [Kiev UKRINFORM Diplomatic Information Service in Russian at 1702 GMT on 23 April broadcasts a similar item which adds: "It was noted in particular that Spain is ready to open a credit line. The initial credit is defined at approximately $250 million. In the nearest future the Spanish minister of economy intends to visit Ukraine in order to define specific areas of possible economic cooperation"] Matters aimed at developing contacts in the field of culture, tourist and student exchanges were raised as well, and the preparation of a treaty of friendship and cooperation between the two countries was discussed.

Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez conveyed a personal invitation from Juan Carlos I, the king of Spain, to the president of Ukraine to pay an official visit to Spain.

The Spanish minister of foreign affairs also had a conversation with his Ukrainian counterpart Anatoliy Zlenko. The two ministers signed a memorandum of cooperation between the Government of Ukraine and the Government of the Kingdom of Spain.

The Spanish guest had a meeting with Ivan Sali, the Ukrainian president's representative in Kiev. There was also an interested talk during the minister's meeting with Kiev residents of Spanish descent.

At a news conference held on Thursday [23April] night, Francisco Fernandez- Ordonez answered numerous questions asked by Ukrainian and foreign journalists.

Interest in CSCE, NATO Expressed

LD2304191292 Madrid RNE International in Spanish 1300 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez said on arriving in Kiev that Spain wants to establish relations of the highest level with Ukraine, a great European and Mediterranean [as heard] country, Fernandez-Ordonez had talks with Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk.

The foreign minister, who arrived accompanied by Eduardo Junco, the Spanish ambassador in Ukraine, has also had a meetimg with his Ukrainian counterpart, Anatoliy Zlenko, who in statements to the press stressed Ukraine's interest in promoting economic, political, cultural, and scientific cooperation with Spain. The Ukrainian minister added that his country is also interested in developing cooperation with Spain in the European continent in different forums, such as the CSCE and other European structures, including NATO.

Border Guards Negotiate With Romanians

AU2304160492 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Three days of negotiations were held in Odessa between a delegation of Ukrainian border guards headed by Lieutenant Colonel Valeriy Hubenko, chairman of the State Committee for Defense of Ukraine's State Border and commander of Ukraine's Border Troops and a Romanian delegation headed by the commander of border troops of the Republic of Romania, Major General Dumitru Luca.

The sides agreed to create expert commissions to elaborate a draft agreement on the regime at the Ukrainian-Romanian state border, cooperation, and mutual assistance in questions regarding the border zone.

Memorandum on Economic Links Signed With Austria

PM2304142292 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 4

[Report by Sergey Tosunyan: "Kiev and Vienna Expand Trade"]

[Text] Vienna—Ukrainian Vice Premier Oleg Slepichev and Austrian Transport and Nationalized Industry Minister Viktor Klima signed a memorandum in Vienna which provides for a significant expansion of economic links between the two countries.

The Ukrainian Government delegation was received by Chancellor Franz Vranitzky and met with representatives of financial circles and heads of major firms.

According to Austrian Economics Ministry data, in January exports to Ukraine totaled 150 million schillings, while imports totaled 65 million schillings. In order to expand economic links Austria is prepared to provide Ukraine with significant credits. By the end of the year Austrian-Ukrainian trade should reach five billion schillings.

Parliament Chairman Leads Delegation to Turkey

LD2204233192 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Yesterday, a delegation headed by Ivan Plyushch, head of the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine, left on an official visit to Turkey. Vitaliy (?Kurashchek), people's deputy of Ukraine and head of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Crimea, is a member of the delegaton. The program of the visit includes a meeting with Husamettin Cindoruk, head of the Grand National Assembly, and Suleyman Demirel, prime minister, and other officials, participation in celebrations marking the 72th anniversary of the Grand National Assembly and in the opening of the European Industrial Exhibition and conversations with representatives of business circles of Turkey.

Turkish Ambassador Presents Credentials

LD2404112392 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 2100 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Today in Kiev, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Turkey in Ukraine Acar Germen handed over credentials to Ukraine's President Leonid Kravchuk. While receiving them, the President of Ukraine said he met with his Turkish counterpart Turgut Ozal and signed documents on cooperation between Ukraine and Turkey at a time when Ukraine was not yet an independent State. "We highly assessed that move by the President of Turkey and his stand in relations to Ukraine", said Leonid Kravchuk. This year marks 70 years since the signing of the first treaty between Ukraine and Turkey. Acar Germen became the sixth after German, Austrian, Hungarian, Italian and French ambassadors of a foreign State in Ukraine who officially passed on his credentials.

National Affairs

Vasilyev Appointed New Air Force Commander

LD2404133192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1305 GMT 24 Apr 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Nikolay Zayka for TASS]

[Text] Kiev, 24 Apr—By decree of the Ukrainian president, Lieutenant General of Aviation Valeriy Vasilyev, 46, has been appointed commander in chief of the Ukrainian Air Force. He took part in combat actions in

Afghanistan, where he carried out 230 combat missions in front line aviation aircraft. By nationality Valeriy Vasilyev is a Byelorusian.

Crimean Republican Movement Appeals to Kravchuk

LD2304195292 Kiev UKRINFORM Diplomatic Information Service in Russian 1508 GMT 23 Apr 92

["Appeal of the Republican Movement of Crimea to the president of Ukraine"—UKRINFORM headline; by UKRINFORM correspondent Lev Ryabchikov]

[Text] Simferopol, 23 Apr—The Republican Movement of Crimea (RMC) handed over to the editorial offices of the local mass media their appeal to the president of Ukraine. Deep gratitude is expressed in the appeal to Leonid Makarovich [Kravchuk] for the concern shown over the situation in the republic, with which each line of his appeal to people's deputies, political forces, and the population of Crimea is filled.

At the same time, the RMC expresses its disagreement with some positions in the document. We totally and officially declare that there are no such forces in the Crimea which could provoke and stir up social or inter-ethnic confrontation. It can be done only from outside, the leaders of the movement assert. They add that that the only way out of the crisis, which was caused by the contradictions of the Crimean problem, lies in giving the Crimean people the opportunity to solve through a referendum the issue of their independence.

Bearing in mind that the referendum in Crimea is being conducted strictly in accordance with the law, and knowing you as an uncompromising fighter against imperial ambitions, says the appeal of the RMC to the president, it is you and the people of independent Ukraine that we, the Crimean people, see as powerful guarantors of freedom and independence in the Crimea.

Crimean Soviet Votes on 'Legal Safeguards'

OW2404010092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1612 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Crimea on Thursday [23 April] voted for making Ukraine and the Crimea legal safeguards of Sevastopol. The press-service of the Crimean Supreme Soviet said several options of taxation had been among other issues discussed.

The Supreme Soviet's Presidium said with satisfaction that its members were invited to take part in the negotiations on the Crimea, which was described as evidence of Ukraine's tolerant attitude to the Crimean deputies. The Presidium of the Crimean Supreme Soviet has approved the make-up of the Crimea's delegation to the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet session.

Further on Crimean Independence Referendum

PM2404095592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Viktor Filippov report: "Fate of All-Crimea Referendum To Be Decided 5 May"]

[Text] Crimea—The Crimean Supreme Soviet Presidium has made plans to hold a session 5 May to discuss the question of a referendum. The deputies were obliged to take this step as a result of the 246,593 signatures collected by the Republican Movement of the Crimea (RMC) activists from residents of the peninsula demanding a plebiscite asking "Are you in favor of an independent Crimean Republic in union with other states?"

Under the Crimean law "On Referendums" 183,000 signatures would have been enough, but the energetic RMC, whose activities are financed by the "Impeks-55 Krym" Association, was considerably assisted by the March visit to Sevastopol by Ukrainian People's Deputy S. Khmara with a Ukrainian national self-defense detachment. Following the visit, 60,400 Sevastopol people, alarmed by the promise to completely Ukrainianize the city, signed the forms. Formally Sevastopol is not obliged to participate in the all-Crimean referendum, since under a decree from President L. Kravchuk the city is directly subordinate to central organs of Ukrainian state power. But I. Yermakov, the Ukrainian president's representative in Sevastopol, stated that if the Crimean Parliament wishes to include the people of Sevastopol in the referendum, they will be able to vote.

The referendum's supporters are convinced that the Crimea would become rich if it became sovereign and separate from Ukraine and Russia. The "Impeks-55 Krym" Association has commissioned the United States and Canada Institute and the Russian Science Foundation to elaborate a concept for the peninsula's economic development.

The Crimean Parliament believes that its statehood could also be asserted by a demarcation of powers with Kiev. In early April it approved and submitted to the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet the draft law "On the Demarcation of the Powers of Ukraine and the Crimean Republic." But the Crimean Council of Ministers, which believes that secession from Ukraine would be a disaster, is persistently expanding business links with Russia and is preparing to set up free economic zones in the Black Sea area and Kerch.

Opponents of the referendum, at their All-Crimean Forum of Democratic Organizations held in Krasnoperekopsk, adopted a resolution claiming that secession from Ukraine would be the first step to civil war. The referendum could lead to a split in the Crimea. Deputies from the Yevpatoriya and Feodosiya City Soviets and the Krasnoperekopskiy, Dzhankoyskiy, and Chernomorskiy Rayon Soviets decided in the event of a victory for the supporters of an

independent Crimea to set up a Tavrida [old name for the Crimea] Oblast within Ukraine.

Visas Issued at Border Posts To Cost $50

AU2304150392 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Temporary regulations have been introduced to regulate the procedure for charging for issuing visas at border posts across the Ukrainian state border. Upon receiving exit and entry visas, foreign citizens and stateless persons, must pay $50 or an equivalent sum in another freely convertible currency and $15 for a transit visa.

The price of visas for groups of foreign citizens who arrive in Ukraine as tourists and also for establishing business ties with Ukrainian enterprises and organizations is $25.

No payment for visas will be exacted from diplomats and associates of secretariats of international organizations of which Ukraine is a member, as well as from members of official government delegations, children aged up to 16 years, and persons who accompany goods intended as humanitarian aid for Ukraine and other CIS countries, and from those who arrive for other humanitarian purposes.

Byelarus

Provisions of Plan for Legal Reform Outlined

LD2304174792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1724 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Minsk, April 23 BELTA-TASS—The Byelarusian parliament recognised on Thursday [23 April] the need to implement a legal reform as one of the conditions of building in the republic a rule-of-law state, and confirmed the basic provisions of the plan of the reform.

The main purpose of the reform is the creation of a legal system capable of ensuring the functioning of a rule-of-law state, assertion of independent judiciary authorities as the main guarantor of civic rights and liberties, the implementation in the legislation of democratic principles of the organisation and activity of law enforcement bodies suiting generally-recognised norms of international law.

The plan for the reform of law endorsed by parliament confirms the prerogative of the judicial authorities to protect citizens constitutional rights and liberties, the prerogative recognised by the world community. The presumption of innocence is asserted. The fundamental principles of the legal status of judges are determined: judges are independent, hold their posts for life, enjoy immunity and are not permitted to engage in political activity. The democratic principles of organisation and functioning of the judiciary authorities are formulated. The judiciary authorities are separated from the legislative and executive authorities, from parties and other public associations.

The legal reform in Byelarus will be implemented in three stages. The first one includes changes in the existing legislature, the adoption of laws on the constitutional court, the public prosecutor's office, the bar, notary's service, national security service. The second stage of the reform envisages organisational measures to create basic elements for the new system of judiciary bodies, such as the jury, the investigating committee, courts of appeal. The third stage envisages the achievement of final aims of the legal reform and the creation of the new system of judiciary bodies acting on the basis of new legislation.

U.S. Charity Sends $1 Million in Medical Aid

LD2204180992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0839 GMT 22 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Alexey Agureyev]

[Text] New York, April 22 TASS—A plane with medicines and medical equipment on board, intended for 25 hospitals and 4 children's asylums in Byelarus, was dispatched on Tuesday [21 April] from the U.S. McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey, ITAR-TASS was told by Floyd Landis, representative of the private American Assistance to Chernobyl Charity Fund.

He said this one million U.S. dollars donation was sent to Byelarus in accordance with the "Hope" plan, initiated by U.S. President George Bush and intended to provide humanitarian aid to CIS republics. The organisers of this charity action shall personally control the distribution of American aid.

Moldova

Dniester State of Emergency Extended 2 Months

LD2304191392 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1700 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Igor Smirnov, president of the unrecognized Dniester Republic, has issued a decree prolonging the state of emergency in the Dniester region by a further two months. It envisages the introduction of a curfew from 2200 to 0600. Citizens are forbidden to be on the streets during this period without special passes. Units of guardsmen and local militia will carry out searches of private individuals and vehicles. Special patrols in the city will wear armbands in the colors of the former flag of the Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic.

Dniester Enjoys 'First Quiet Night' in Months

LD2404094592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0906 GMT 24 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau, April 24 TASS—The breakaway Dniester region of Moldova slept the first quiet night in many months of an armed conflict there, as no shootings were reported, the Moldovan Interior Ministry said on Friday [24 April] and expressed hope the peaceful settlement of the conflict has begun.

But the press centre of the city of Tiraspol is less optimistic as it reported submachine-gun and mortar fire last night near the city of Dubossary. However, no casualties were mentioned.

The peaceful settlement in the area can be promoted by a joint commission of Moldovan and Dniester deputies which is to begin work in the Kriulyany settlement near Dubossary in the near future, TASS learned from reliable sources. The deputies are to discuss the mechanism of complete disengagement of the warring armed groups, of disarming volunteers and ensuring peace in the area.

Dniester Version of Guards' Deaths Dismissed

OW2304205692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1824 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Moldovan Interior and Defence Ministries have dismissed Dniester's version of the death of six home guards in the area of Dubossary. Dniester says the home guards died when Moldovan police attacked their

positions. The battle is reported to have continued well into the night. Chisinau says six home guards died and six other people were injured, when they got drunk and went in the wrong direction to get into the trenches of Moldovan police.

Leaders 'Satisfied' With Commission Results

OW2304210992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1825 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A conciliatory commission met in session in Bendery on Thursday [23 April] to discuss the disengagement and disarmament of rival factions. Moldova's first Prime Minister Konstantin Oborok said the leaders of Moldova were satisfied with the agreement concluded in Bendery, which had stopped bloodshed. "Every step must now be taken to prevent the armistice agreement from being violated by illegal armed groups, which have gone out of control and on the excuse of the conflict have engaged in robbery, looting and violence," Oborok said. The Moldovan official announced that disengagement and disarmament would begin in other areas of the conflict in Dniester shortly.

Ukrainian Volunteers Confirmed in Dniester

OW2304181592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1612 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] One of the leaders of the Ukrainian National Assembly Dmitriy Korchinskiy has confirmed REUTER reports that a small group of members of the Ukrainian Popular Self-Defence Force is involved in the armed conflict in Dniester. The self-defense force is a paramilitary organization cooperating with the National Assembly.

Interviewed by the Ukrainian TV and radio news agency Korchinskiy refused to name the exact number of Ukrainian volunteers in the Dniester area. He said only they were fighting for Dniester and did not receive any pay.

Korchinskiy described their participation in the conflict as support for the ideological and moral motives of Ukrainians in Dniester.

Snegur Meets With Party Representatives

AU2404080792 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1810 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 23/4/1992—The President of the Republic of Moldova, Mircea Snegur, received on 22 April the presidium of the Democratic Party of Moldova [PDM], in his first round of talks with Moldova's political parties.

On the conflict in the Dniester region, the PDM representatives said the moves of the Russian Federation at the 6th Congress of the People's Deputies—to allegedly defend the rights of the Slavic population in that part of the Republic of Moldova— was actually a screen for more dangerous forces that would like to see the empire reborn. And the evidence thereof are the pretexts for the 14th Army to be maintained in the area. However, this raises the question of the Republic of Moldova's remaining in the CIS. PDM is against a federalization of the republic. Nor can it conceive of a different political status for the Dniester Republic. This center party supports the elected administration and is determined to contribute to the improvement of the social and economic situation in the republic, Gheorghe Ghimpu, co-president of PDM said.

CIS Membership Said 'Questionable'

OW2304182592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1711 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At a Wednesday [22 April] meeting in Chisinau with President Mircea Snegur representatives of the Democratic Party said that the participation of Moldova in the CIS is becoming questionable. In their opinion, independent Moldova cannot reconcile itself with the pressure of another independent state. According to IF's [INTERFAX] correspondent, the president shared the opinion.

According to reliable sources, several influential politicians have suggested using Easter holidays for announcing the abolition of the state of emergency and a moratorium between the conflicting sides on the left bank of the Dniester for one year.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev on Right To Be in 'Nuclear Club'

LD2404101392 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0600 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] President Nursultan Nazarbayev has given an interview to Basio Skvilante, a correspondent of the Italian newspaper LA STAMPA. Nazarbayev stated that Kazakhstan has the right to become a member of the nuclear club and will not hand over strategic missiles to Russia. The president of Kazakhstan justified his refusal to hand over the strategic weapons for destruction in the Russian Federation on the lack of funds on both sides which are necessary to carry out this operation.

Nevertheless, a [word indistinct] review reports that the correspondent [as heard] stated that Kazakhstan will take part in the process of disarmament and will never pose a threat to anyone. In case of the CIS disintegrating, Kazakhstan will not sever economic relations with Russia; however, it will concentrate on developing ties within the community of Central Asian states.

Nazarbayev Removes 40th Army From Turkestan

PM2104113492 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Apr 92 p 2

[Colonel A. Ladin report: "Another Army on CIS Territory?"]

[Text] Alma-Ata—Addressing leading personnel of the law enforcement organs, Nursultan Nazarbayev, president of the Republic of Kazakhstan, announced that the 40th Combined Arms Army, which is stationed on Kazakh territory, has been transferred from the jurisdiction of the Turkestan Military District's command and will be directly subordinate to the CIS Joint Armed Forces commander in chief. The president went on to state that Kazakhstan may begin creating its own army in the near future.

As KRASNAYA ZVEZDA has learned, the 40th Army remains under the command of Lieutenant General Anatoliy Ryabtsev. But now he is appointed to this post by decree of the president of Kazakhstan.

Vice President Receives Amnesty Delegation

LD2204124892 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 0100 GMT 18 Apr 92

[Text] In Alma-Ata, Vice President Yerik Asanbayev has received an Amnesty International delegation led by its secretary general, Ian Martin. The guest noted that he had come to Kazakhstan at the invitation of President Nursultan Nazarbayev, an invitation issued during his visit to London. The aim of the visit is to popularize the ideas of the organization, which are concerned exclusively with the defense of human rights. There was an exchange of opinions on issues of the defense of human rights in the republic.

The delegation was received on the same day by State Councillor Yuriy Khitrin, who acquainted the guests in detail with draft bills which have been adopted or which are being elaborated in the area of human rights. During their visit members of the delegation had a look at the work of Kazakhstan's law enforcement bodies [words indistinct].

Turkish Ambassador Presents Credentials

OW2104182292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1555 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Turkish Ambassador to Kazakhstan Argun Yesbai presented his credentials to President Nursultan Nazarbayev Tuesday [21 April].

The ceremony was followed by a short discussion during which issues concerning the impending visit in late April-early May of Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel.

Argun Yesbai also told Nazarbayev that the Turkish Prime Minister will visit Tashkent and Bishkek before arriving in Alma-Ata.

Kyrgyzstan

Russia's Kozyrev on 2-Day Official Visit

Meets With Foreign Minister

LD2404040592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0346 GMT 24 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Bishkek, 24 Apr—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, who arrived in Bishkek on a working visit on 23 April, and Roza Otnubayeva, Kyrgyz deputy prime minister and foreign minister, opened talks this morning. The heads of the foreign policy departments discussed bilateral relations, exchanged opinions on the situation in the Central Asian Republics, and examined a number of current international problems. Kyrgyzstan is the first stage of Andrey Kozyrev's working tour of foreign countries. He will set off for six Persian Gulf countries after Bishkek.

Akayev Stresses Russian Ties

LD2404061192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0637 GMT 24 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Bishkek, 24 Apr—Kyrgyzstan's state policy aims primarily to develop relations with Russia in all areas,

President Askar Akayev said today before meeting Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, who is in Bishkek on a short working visit.

Askar Akayev noted that while the Republic has been establishing numerous links with various world states, relations with Russia occupy a particular place in Kyrgyzstan's policies. This is why the Republic was pleased at the decision to ratify the bilateral treaty on interstate relations that Russia and Kyrgyzstan signed on 21 July 1991. We are convinced, he noted, that ratification of this treaty will give our relations and cooperation a new level and form.

Protocols With Russia Signed

LD2404080192 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0700 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] The foreign ministers of the Russian Federation and Kyrgyzstan, Andrey Kozyrev and Roza Otunbayeva, today signed a protocol on the exchange of credentials for the ratification of the treaty on interstate relations between Russia and Kyrgyzstan. The treaty is aimed at giving a new boost to Kyrgyzstan-Russian relations, Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev said in a conversation. It will undoubtedly elevate our bilateral relations to a qualitatively new level, he noted.

Andrey Kozyrev and Roza Otumbayeva also signed protocols on cooperation and the coordination of activities between the Foreign Ministries of the Russian Federation and Kyrgyzstan.

Tajikistan

Dushanbe Opposition Rally Ends; Demands Met

LD2404123692 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 0931 GMT 24 Apr 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Dushanbe—Protesters in Dushanbe are ending their rally following an agreement reached on April 24 between the opposition forces and the city authorities.

After the Tajikistan Supreme Soviet accepted the resignation of its speaker, Safarali Kendzhayev, agreement was reached to abolish amendments to the media law and the penal code, and the law on holding public rallies, marches and manifestations was rescinded.

Pending a new constitution, Akbarsho Iskanderov was elected acting parliamentary speaker. A referendum on the new constitution is scheduled for December this year. At the same time, an election will be held at the republic's multi-party Supreme Soviet. Opposition representatives have been included into the commission to prepare the text of a new constitution. The opposition's demand on the resignation of chairman of the State TV and Radio Company Atakhon Saifullayev was also granted. Saifullayev himself submitted his resignation to the president.

To mark its victory, the opposition forces held on April 22 a march in front of the Supreme Soviet building, taking part in which were approximately 15,000 opposition guardsmen. The rally was addressed by opposition leaders, including chairman of the Islamic Revival Party Mukhammadsharif Khimatzoda, who told a parliamentary session on April 22 that his party was not armed and was not engaged in military preparations, also discounting rumours about its contacts with the Afghan opposition and Iranian fundamentalists. The opposition held a parade march of paramilitary groups along Rudakiy Avenue. In response to the conferment of the rank of colonel general to President Rakhman Nabiyev, one of the leaders of the Islamic Revival Party Eshon Mykhamdjon was awarded the rank of lieutenant-general, and Ishon Kiemeddin—Army general. Part of the protesters was highly sceptical, saying that the authorities had again deceived the people. Many doubt that the parliament will dismiss Dushanbe Mayor Maksud Ikramov. Fears are also being expressed that Safarali Kendzhayev will be appointed by Rakhman Nabiyev as chairman of the republic's security committee.

General on Government's Military Doctrine

OW2304181492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1612 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The military doctrine of Tajikistan must retain the continuity of the anti-war principles and principles of sufficiency. The Chairman of the Republican Defense Committee General Major Farrukh Niyazov told "IF" [INTERFAX] after the appointment of the Tajik President Rakhman Nabiyev the Commander-in-Chief and after conferment the rank of General-Colonel on him. F. Niyazov underlined that the main goal of the Tajik military doctrine is providing security for the republic in the framework of the CIS from the outer danger. The General said that there are two methods to achieve this aim - to prevent military conflicts and armed defense of the republican sovereignty and unity, if one fails to prevent a war. "At present we do not consider any separate state or military union as our enemy. But as military danger still exists the military doctrine must define the methods and ways for its neutralization". Niyazov considers that the political-diplomatic means must have the priority.

Turkmenistan

President Cited on Creating Republican Army

LD2304191892 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] A decree is being prepared on Turkmenistan's forming its own armed forces on the basis of the 52d

Army, which is stationed in the republic. According to the NEGA Agency, this was stated at a news conference in Bishkek by Sapamurad Niyazov, the president of Turkmenistan. The news conference was held on the results of yesterday's summit meeting between the state and government leaders of Central Asian countries and Kazakhstan.

Niyazov argued the case for this step by saying that the main burden for protecting the whole region rests precisely with Turkmenistan which has a long border with Afghanistan. This burden is obviously increasing in connection with predicted long-term instability in Afghanistan.

President Forms Council for Entrepreneurship

OW2304234992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1630 GMT 23 Apr 92

[From "Presidential Bulletin"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Saparmurad Niyazov has signed a decree on the formation of a public council for entrepreneurship affiliated to the president. It will consist of deputies, scientists, entrepreneurs and bankers.

In an interview with IF [INTERFAX] the council chairman, the chairman of the Academy of Agricultural Sciences Rejep Bairamov said that the council will draft legislation on the economic reform, inform the president about the state of business and defend the interests of entrepreneurs.

According to a member of the newly-formed council the president of the entrepreneurs' union Kurban Ovezmuradov, the necessity of such a body was discussed with President Niyazov last year. In his opinion the council should be involved in the drafting of key legislation: on private property, corruption, banks and banking, exchanges and bourses as well as anti-monopoly rules.

Armenia

Further on Supreme Soviet Statement

LD2304170592 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1423 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Correspondent Koryun Khumaryan reports from Yerevan]

[Excerpt] Shelling of Armenian border villages and roads, as well as hostage taking, have become almost daily occurrences. Substantial contingents of the Azerbaijani Army and other armed groups, equipped with the latest weapons and equipment from the arsenals of the CIS Armed Forces—and not just the CIS—continue their buildup along the entire length of the border. It appears that Azerbaijan is bent on drawing Armenia into a large-scale conflict.

It was against this background that the Armenian Supreme Soviet held its regular meeting in private yesterday. It discussed questions connected with the republic's defenses. At the end of its meeting the Supreme Soviet issued a statement in which it sharply criticized certain circles in Russia's military and political leadership for making available a large quantity of military equipment to Azerbaijan, including a quarter of the Caspian Flotilla, whose firepower will undoubtedly be used against the Armenian people of Nagorno-Karabakh and border districts of Armenia. Among other things, the statement says that these unfriendly acts contradict the December 1991 treaty signed by the presidents of Russia and Armenia, as well as the founding documents of the CIS.

The blockade of the gas pipeline that runs through Kazakhstan and the railway blockade are, for all intents and purposes, continuing in spite of high-sounding declarations made by the Azerbaijani side. Organized plunder of railway trains carrying goods for Armenia is occurring. Some 3,450 freight cars carrying diesel, gasoline, fuel, lubricants, wheat, flour, sugar, and other goods, worth a total of 14 billion rubles, have been plundered during the last month alone. Intensive shelling of Gadrut district of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic is continuing from Fizuli in Azerbaijan. Large concentrations of the enemy's national army are also observed close to the district centres of Askeran and Martuni.

Stepanakert was again shelled from Shusha last night. A Grad launcher fired off 32 rounds, causing injury and destruction. A precise casualty figure is being compiled. Meanwhile, there is near panic in the town. This is worsened by hunger and rapidly spreading disease. But there is absolutely no way of leaving Stepanakert. The rare flights out of the town can only manage the evacuation of the wounded and those very seriously ill. [passage omitted]

Ministry Highlights Russian 'Error' Over Talks

OW2404010292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1612 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The press-secretary of the Armenian Foreign Ministry Garnik Badalyan has told IF [INTERFAX] that Russia's Foreign Ministry has made a certain error in its efforts to promote a settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict by setting a date for the meeting in Mineralnyie Vody for April 24.

Badalian said the Russian Foreign Minister should have recalled that that day for the Armenian people was a day of grief and remembrance of the victims of genocide of Armenians in Turkey in 1915.

Yerevan has found the move insulting to the Armenian people. Garnik Badalyan said such an error did no credit to a competent and soberly-minded politician in charge of the Russian Foreign Ministry.

[Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian at 1607 GMT on 23 April in a similar report adds the following: "ARMENPRESS, the national agency, reports that the republic's parliament has expressed itself in favor of immediate consultations between the parliamentarians of Russia and Armenia in order to resolve the situation in the region."]

Nagorno-Karabakh Appoints Representative

LD2304223992 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] By a decision of the Nagorno-Karabakh Supreme Soviet Presidium, Manvel Sarksyan has been appointed Nagorno-Karabakh's extraordinary and plenipotentiary representative in Armenia. The NEGA news agency notes that it is hoped in Stepanakert that the presence of a plenipotentiary representative of the region's authorities in Yerevan will promote the strengthening of contacts between Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh, and the effective tackling of urgent tasks.

14 Armenians Killed in Nagorno-Karabakh Explosion

LD2304112992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0940 GMT 23 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 23 Apr (TASS)—At least 14 Armenians were killed and 20 were wounded when a bus was blown up by a mine in the Gadrutskiy Rayon of Nagorno-Karabakh. According to a report telephoned to the ITAR-TASS correspondent from the press center of the Nagorno-Karabakh defense committee, this occurred on Wednesday [22 April] evening on the Shekher-Trakhtik road, which, according to preliminary information, was

mined by saboteurs who had penetrated into Nagorno-Karabakh from Azerbaijan. The passengers on the bus were civilians, some of them women and children.

This is already the second terrorist act this week. As already reported, on 20 April eight residents of the village of Garov in Askeranskiy Rayon were blown up by a mine while exchanging the bodies of people killed.

According to information from the same source, over the last few days Stepanakert, the settlement of Shaumyanovsk, and the villages of Erkedzh and Karachinar have been shelled by missile and artillery fire. There are casualties, and damage has been caused.

Parliament's Stand on Socioeconomic Policy Noted

PM2404093592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Sergey Bablumyan report: "Armenian Parliament Against Government"]

[Text] Yerevan—The Armenian parliament has rejected the foundations of the republic government's socioeconomic policy presented by Armenian President L. Ter-Petrosyan.

The president was extremely brief and merely outlined the strategic avenues of economic policy without going into detail. Hence the numerous questions addressed to the speaker and even the attempts to "sound out" the president about his views on the realities of his fellow citizens' lives and everyday problems. For instance, he was asked if he was aware of the minimum wage laid down in Armenia.

This desire to bring the discussion at the session "down to earth" and steer it in the direction of the actual economy can be explained by the fact that living standards have moved down too sharply.

The parliament refused to adopt the program proposed by the Armenian Government. The president believes that this happened in particular because during the discussion of the document many deputies were guided primarily by political motives.

Azerbaijan

Official: Armenian Forces Deployed Near Border

OW2304163892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1611 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Azeri official representative to Moscow, Zaur Rustam-zade, stated that huge formations of the Armenian combatants supported by armored personnel carriers are concentrated around the Azeri towns bordering Armenia. Thursday [23 April] in Moscow the official representative made a statement that the Armenians are preparing an assault of Fisuli town which is not a constituent of Nagorno-Karabakh, "reports on the future monstrous crime-mass murder of the Azeri hostages April 24 are received permanently". [sentence as received] This day is celebrated as the memory day of genocide victims of the Western Armenia, 1915.

The Azeri official representative was surprised that the Russian mass media issues "rude and false fictions of the Armenian propaganda and defends the need for seizure of the last Azeri populated areas in Karabakh and occupation of new territories in Azerbaijan".

Border Guards Reportedly Move Guns to Armenia

OW2404001092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1612 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Azerbaijan's border protection committee says the command of the border guards in Trans-Caucasia has continued to withdraw the weapons and other equipment from Azerbaijan, in most cases to Armenia.

The military hardware is being stored near Yerevan. On April 22 Azeri police opened fire on and detained two automobiles carrying food and other supplies of the Gadrut border guard detachment outside Baku.

The Azeri police seized the cargo and beat up the officer and warrant officer who accompanied it.

Ministry Denies Firing On Humanitarian Plane

NC2304195792 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] The Azerbaijani Ministry of Defense Press Center denies the following:

On 21 April, the Mayak Radio in Moscow, the Vesti program of the Russian Television and Radio Broadcasting Company, and a news bulletin aired by the [name indistinct] Television and Radio Broadcasting Company carried a report based on information they received from Armenian sources. The report claimed that an aircraft carrying humanitarian aid from Yerevan to Khankendi [Stepanakert] was fired on over Azerbaijani territory.

The Azerbaijani Ministry of Defense Press Center believes it is necessary to report the following in connection with this report:

The world is now aware that Armenia is waging an undeclared war against Azerbaijan in Karabakh and in the republic's border regions. Thousands of peaceful Azerbaijani people have been either killed or forced to become refugees as a result of this war. Undoubtedly, Armenia is aiding and supporting the Armenian violence in Karabakh.

In the current conditions, Azerbaijan has to safeguard its territorial integrity and maintain the inviolability of its airspace. According to accepted international norms, the border of a sovereign country cannot be violated and an

agreement must be reached on aid dispatched to its territory. The Armenian leaders, however, ignore these norms and grossly violate the sovereign rights of our country, which is a member of the United Nations.

Regardless of these facts, the Press Center announces that the Azerbaijani Armed Forces have not fired on any official aircraft. The Armenian side must realize that violating the airspace of another country is in direct conflict with international law. The Armenian side must also realize that if it violates our airspace, it is entirely responsible for any related incidents.

Defense Minister Says 'Corridor' Planned

OW2304150092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1431 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Azeri Minister of Defense Rakhim Gaziyev stated that April 24 [as received] the Armenians plan to fulfil an operation named "Corridor" for establishing a strategic corridor between Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh. The press center of the Azeri Defense Ministry reported that the Armenian military detachments intend to take under their control the road Lachin-Shusha in Karabakh.

According to R. Gaziyev, this operations may lead to unpredictable results in the Armenian-Azeri conflict zone.

The Minister has also categorically denied the statement on planned elimination of the political leaders of Russia and Armenia spread by mass media and attributed to him. Meanwhile the Ministry of Defense press center reported that the sanitary-chemical service of the Defense Ministry found poisonous substances in the shells which the Armenians used while firing Shusha [as received]. A group of the doctors-toxicologists from the Republican center for hygiene and epidemiology revealed blisters, suppurations and abscesses on the skin of the wounded Azeris.

Government Denies Claim About Death Threats

OW2304171292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1611 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Azerbaijan's Defence Minister Rakhim Gaziyev has qualified as an insinuation the statement in which the press center of Nagorno-Karabakh's Defence Committee quotes an Azeri radio program with threats to kill a number of politicians.

Nevertheless the Defence Committee insists that it has tapes with the Azeri radio program "Morning" of April 16 which included the following text: "Time will come, and soon, when big and small graves of Levon Ter-Petrosian, Zori Balayan, Silva Kaputikian, Arkadiy Manutarov, Genrikh Pogosian, Galina Starovoytova, Arkadiy Volskiy and others will be seen outside Armenia". This program was presented following the death of Arthur Mkrtchian, the leader of Armenians in Karabakh. Its presenters said that it should be viewed as the beginning of a series of acts of vindication.

Agreement Reached for Release of CIS Hostages

LD2304171492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1637 GMT 23 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow, 23 Apr—The talks that were taking place in the Air Force division stationed in Western Azerbaijan between Rakhim Gaziyev, the Azerbaijan minister of defense, and Colonel General Valeriy Patrikeyev, commander of the forces of the Transcaucasian Military District and official Russian representative, have come to an end. As Colonel Valeriy Polyakov, the operational duty officer of the Transcaucasus Military District, reported to ITAR-TASS, an agreement has been reached regarding the immediate release of the six officers taken hostage during an attack on a weapons and ammunition store by a sub-unit of the Azerbaijan National Army. The sides have agreed that henceforth the stores will be guarded jointly by servicemen of the military district and personnel from the Azerbaijan Army.

According to Colonel Polyakov's report, the seizure of the stores and the hostages occurred as a result of betrayal by Azerbaijani warrant officers who by means of deception locked the soldiers up in one of the buildings of the military settlement and then let sub- units of the Azerbaijan Army in through the checkpoint.

Weapons Seized From Air Defense Station

LD2304141392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 0800 GMT 23 Apr 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] On 22 April, in conversation with representatives of the Defense Ministry, Major General Fedor (Reut), 7th Army Commander in the Transcaucasus Military District, confirmed a report that on 21 April armed persons occupied the brigade antiaircraft defense center in the outskirts of the town of Mingechaur in Azerbaijan. The personnel of the center were driven out and weapons and equipment were taken.

Official Meets With CIS Army Officers

LD2304212392 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 23 Apr 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Samedzade, first deputy chairman of the Azerbaijani Supreme Soviet, has received a group of senior officers of units of the 4th CIS Army, stationed on the republic's territory. Samedzade assured the officers that

they would retain all their benefits, should they continue their service in the Azerbaijani Army.

Residents Appeal to Citizens For Support

NC2304153092 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1900 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Representatives of Kel'badzharskiy Rayon have issued an appeal to the republic's citizenry, informing them that the rayon is faced with the threat of a tragedy similar to that Khodzhaly suffered. The appeal said that the people of Kel'badzharskiy Rayon are leaving the rayon due to the Armenian attacks. Some 45,000 residents may be added to the number of refugees in Azerbaijan.

Noting the need to strengthen Kel'badzharskiy Rayon's defenses, the representatives urged the republic's citizens, establishments, and organizations to contribute to the defense of the rayon. Donations can be made to an account opened in the Kel'Badzhar branch of the Azerbaijan Agrarian Bank, account number: 7032-502383.

9 Candidates Register for Presidential Election

OW2304214892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1824 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Nine candidates for the President of Azerbaijan have been registered, the electoral commission said. A total of 11 candidates had been nominated.

The central electoral commission said on Thursday [23 April] that the latest two nominations - those of the chairman of the Revolutionary Party of Azerbaijan Sayad Sayadov, and Gaydar Aliyev, nominated by the health service and education workers in the Shakhbuz district of the Nakhichevan autonomous republic were dismissed as running counter to the rules of the republican presidential election law. Sayad Sayadov was rejected on the grounds that his party had not been registered yet, and Gaydar Aliyev, for age reasons. He turned 69 several days ago. The age limit is 65.

The nine registered candidates are: 1. Abulfaz Elchibey, of the Popular Front of Azerbaijan; 2. Yakub Namedov, the speaker of the Azeri Parliament; 3. Etibar Mamedov, of the Party of National Independence; 4. Nizami Suleymenov, of the Union of Democratic Forces, associate member of the Academy of Sciences; 5. Ashraf Mekhtiyev, of the Association of victims of Political Repression of Azerbaijan; 6. Rafig Abdullaev, of the Azeri Popular-Democratic Group; 7. Araz Alizade, of the Azeri Social-Democratic Party; 8. Ilias Ismailov, of the Movement of Democratic Reforms of Azerbaijan; 9. Tamerlan Garayev, deputy speaker of parliament, nominated by a number of organizations, including the "January 200" committee.

The electoral commission said that Gaydar Aliyev would have chances to be nominated candidate only if parliament gathers before the 27th to make an appropriate amendment to the law. Aliyev's supporters have staged a number of demonstrations in Baku to press for the lifting the age restriction.

Currently, nomination papers are undergoing final checks.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Invited To Visit Greece

LD2304175892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1156 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Moscow, April 23 ITAR-TASS—Greek Prime Minister Konstandinos Mitsotakis has invited Eduard Shevardnadze to pay an official visit to Greece. The invitation was conveyed to Shevardnadze by Greek Ambassador to Russia Elias Gounaris.

The Greek Embassy in Moscow told ITAR-TASS that the meeting between the ambassador and Shevardnadze, marked by a friendly atmosphere, had reaffirmed good relations and excellent prospects for cooperation between Greece and Georgia. Shevardnadze invited Mitsotakis to pay a visit to Georgia in near future.

The Greek delegation met Catholicos-Patriarch Iliya II of All Georgia, as well as ethnic Greeks living in Georgia. The number of Greeks living currently in Georgia is estimated at 100,000 people.

A protocol on establishing diplomatic relations between Greece and Georgia was signed in Tbilisi.

Helicopter Regiment Comes Under Fire

PM2404075492 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 20 Apr 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast: Video report by I. Tabolova and O. Fedorovich, identified by caption]

[Text] [Tabolova] Last night the city came under fierce attack from virtually all kinds of weapons. Once again the bombardment caused injuries and fatalities and damaged homes, schools, and pioneer centers. The helicopter regiment stationed next to the Georgian village of Nikozi also came under fire as always. The only helicopter regiment in the Caucasus near Tskhinvali has been stationed here for 15 years now. But today it is finding it increasingly difficult to keep its combat vehicles. On written orders from the leadership of the Transcaucasian Military District the pilots have already lost six combat helicopters. Four have gone to Armenia, two to Georgia. Persistent rumors are flying around the regiment about its being disbanded. It is not known who will be sent where, without apartments, and without money. [video shows helicopters on ground, soldiers on parade, shots of airfield]

Gamsakhurdia Supporters Reportedly Plan Sabotage

OW2304214792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1824 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The State Council's official for West Georgia, Jony Karchava, has told journalists that the republican security forces have learned of preparations by the supporters of the ousted President Zviad Gamsakhurdia for acts of sabotage, including explosions on railways in the Zestafon and Sagaredjoi districts. The official said that the saboteurs will soon be rendered harmless.

Measures Taken With IMF Recommendations

OW2304214592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1824 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The government of Georgia has taken additional measures to liberalize prices and speed up the economic reform in keeping with the recommendations of the IMF. Enterprises, associations and all juridical persons irrespective of their subordination and type of property have been allowed to sell any products, goods and services at free prices. The government has retained control of the prices and tariffs of:

1. industrial coal, natural and liquefied gas, electricity, precious metals, and their alloys, scraps and wastes.

2. consumer goods and services—bread, milk, medicines and medical equipment, natural and liquified gas, power supply, communal services, services, communications and all types of passenger transport.

From now on the government will be purchasing farm produce and raw materials at free prices.

The Georgian Government on Thursday [23 April] adopted a resolution on the freedom of trade, permitting enterprises and individuals to perform trading, mediatory and purchasing operations, including those for cash, without special permission. The goods whose production and selling is prohibited by law will be the sole exception. Goods brought into the republic by citizens or sent to their address will be duty-free.

Estonia

Swedish King Arives; 'Terrorism' Cancels Meeting

LD2204104392 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 0900 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Excerpts] At 1045 today, His Majesty Carl XVI Gustaf, king of Sweden, and Her Majesty Queen Sylvia arrived in Tallinn. The royal ship was escorted to the dock by an Estonian coastal patrol boat. At 1100, the ceremony welcoming the lofty visitors began. Supreme Soviet Chairman Arnold Ruutel, accompanied by his wife, met the royal couple on the quay next to Linnahall. An honor guard of Estonion defense and border guard troops trooped to honor the visitors. The guests then travelled to Kadriorg Palace for an exchange of gifts. A tree planting ceremony took place at the palace a few minutes ago. An oak was planted by Carl XVI Gustaf to mark the beginning of another environmental protection month. [passage omitted]

The Baltic Ecological international conference which was due to take place in Pirita has been canceled because of the act of terrorism which took place there. It has been important to somebody to portray Estonia as a turbulent place so as to damage our international reputation, said Estonian Environment Minister Tonis Kaasik. [passage omitted]

Pledge Made on Diplomatic Ties With Taiwan

OW2204132392 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1315 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The press service of the Estonian Foreign Ministry has reported that yesterday a Taiwan official visited the Foreign Ministry where he had a meeting with Foreign Minister Jean Manitski during which the latter said Estonia had established diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China and pledged in the protocol it signed not to establish diplomatic relations with Taiwan. At the same time, Estonia was interested in cooperating with Taiwan companies, Manitski said.

Tatarstan Plans To Establish Close Ties

OW2304193392 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1907 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Tatarstan plans to establish direct political and economic contacts with Estonia. In meetings held in Kazan, Vice Prime Minister of Tatarstan Likhachev reached an agreement with K. Nikdusaar, personal representative of the head of the Estonian Parliament, that the leaders of Estonia and Tatarstan should hold official meetings in Tallinn and Kazan in the near future. Details about scheduling and agendas for the meetings will be announced at a later date.

Latvia

Russia Said To Export Arms to Libya Via Riga

LD2304210792 Riga Radio Riga International in English 2030 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Russia is said to be exporting part of its military equipment via Latvia's capital Riga, writes the daily DIENA.

The newspaper quoted a former Soviet submarine seaman as saying that two submarines sold to Iran and Libya were docked in a Bolderaja Shipyard in the outskirts of Riga, and after unnecessary repairs would leave for the two Arab countries accompanied by former Soviet military experts.

Meanwhile, awaiting the completion of the repair, nine Libyan naval officers, 17 seamen, and their families are residing in the territory of the navy training center.

Latvian Foreign Ministry is repeatedly (?proffering) a protest note to Russia, noting of the United Nations sanctions, imposed on Libya following its refusal to hand over for trial two suspects implicated in bombing of an American airliner, according to which all arms sales are banned to the Arab country.

A spokesman for the training center expressed surprise over (?unawaredness) of Latvian foreign service about the presence in the country of Libyan servicemen as all of them had valid visas, according to the DIENA.

Libyan Submarine Reportedly Repaired in Riga

OW2304192492 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1907 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] From reliable sources a correspondent for the "Diena" newspaper has learned that Libyan soldiers are located in Riga. They arrived in conjunction with the repair of a submarine Libya had purchased from the USSR. The submarine is located in ship repair factory Number 177 in the Bolderaja district of Riga.

The newspaper reports that as early as January a government commission on the reception of military installations lead by minister Janis Dinevics had considered the prospect of transferring this factory to the Latvian Ministry of Naval Affairs. In accordance with the commission's decision, the government ordered the factory to be transferred to the Latvian Ministry of Naval Affairs on February 17.

But on February 10 the Central Administration of CIS Baltic Fleet Ship-Repair Factories sent a document to the factory stating that it was the property of the Russian Federation.

The Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs refused to comment on the presence of Libyan representatives in Riga, saying the information had not been confirmed.

Representatives at the press center of the North-Western Forces Group said that they had not received any such information.

Officer Comments on Repair Work

LD2304221192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2000 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Interview with unidentified naval officer by unidentified correspondent on 23 April; place not given; from the "Novosti" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] A submarine for Libya at a naval ship repair yard! This sensational report in the Latvian press today prompted us to see whether it was possible.

[Officer] Well, the sub did not turn up in the dock today—it turned up at our shipyard in 1988, under a contract that was signed between the two states—the Soviet Union and Libya.

[Correspondent] Russia supported the UN Security Council decision against Libya, including the cessation of flights and the sale of arms. As we know, a week ago the sanctions came into force.

[Officer] Well, we have a contract between the Armed Forces Ministry and our yard, we have to fulfill our contractual obligations, and for a start it's necessary to complete everything—the dock repair of the sub—and only then resolve the problem or the fate of the sub as a whole and of the Libyan crew. But the first thing we've got to do is to get the submarine out of the dock.

Lithuania

Russian Troop Withdrawal Delegations Meet

LD2304174292 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1055 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] The third meeting of expert groups of the Lithuanian and Russian negotiating delegations on the withdrawal of troops from the Lithuania started in Vilnius today. The Lithuanian group of experts is headed by Minister Aleksandras Abisala and the Russian group by Viktor Isakov, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Russia.

The meeting of the two expert groups is expected to continue for two days.

[Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian at 1250 GMT broadcasts a relay of the Lithuanian Supreme Council plenary session, during which Ceslovas Stankevicius, deputy chairman of the Lithuanian Supreme Council says the following:

"Esteemed deputies, just one sentence. The Russian side has officially declared at the third session of the Lithuanian and Russian expert groups, which started today, that it is not prepared to set forth its position on or to discuss the date of its troops' withdrawal from Lithuania. Thank you."]

Vagnorius Calls For Elections in Summer

LD2304215592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1950 GMT 23 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Kazis Ustsila]

[Text] Vilnius, 23 Apr—"The government is not in the grip of a crisis, a crisis has broken out outside it, first and foremost in the Supreme Council", stated Gediminas Vagnorius, the prime minister of the Lithuanian Republic, speaking today on Lithuanian Radio. The head of the government heaped accusations on the parliament. According to him, a number of commissions and factions of the parliament "are artifically complicating the situation", and the Supreme Council "is often becoming a place where misdemeanours are defended". Vagnorius stated that "this Supreme Council is no longer capable of working constructively" inasmuch as, according to him, "the destructive forces, which previously constituted a minority, have become too influential".

The prime minister called on the deputies and the population to combine the election of a new parliament with the scheduled presidential elections by the end of the summer.

Included in the agenda for plenary sessions is the question of the government situation which came about after several ministers applied for resignation, while the majority has officially stated its disagreement with the prime minister's style of work. However the sessions ended before they got around to discussing this question. According to unofficial information received by ITAR-TASS, Deputy Prime Minister Algis Dobrovolskas, also announced his intention to resign today.

In parliament today, Prime Minister Gedeminas Vagnorius received an unpleasant piece of news: the commission, formed by parliament, that delved into the mutual accusations between the prime minister and the manager of the Lithuania State Bank, has arrived at a conclusion—Vagnorius's claims and accusations are unfounded.

National Security Service Chief Appointed

LD2304142892 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0845 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Excerpt] The government has decided to appoint Balys Gajauskas as director general of the National Security Service of the Republic of Lithuania.

Esteemed Gajauskas was born in 1926. [passage omitted]

Formation of Centrist Party Announced

OW2404000692 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1835 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A new political organization is in the works in Lithuania—the Centrist Party. Deputy of the Lithuanian Parliament Mecus Laurinkus made this announcement on Lithuanian television Wednesday [22 April].

He said that the Centrist Party plans to fight for the establishment of complete democracy in Lithuania.

The announcement of the formation of the Centrist Party was signed by Lithuania's temporary charge d'affairs in Moscow Egidijus Bickauskas and parliamentary deputies Eugenijus Petrovas, Romualdas Ozolas, Petras Vaitiekunas, among others.